NEXTWORLD

2

From the Creator of *ASTRO BOY*®

OSAMU TEZUKA

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NOAH'S ARK

WHAT EVER HAPPENED TO THE ESCAPED MUSTACHIO?

NEVER! I WILL NOT DIE! EVEN IF I HAVE TO FIGHT OFF COLDS AND WHATEVER ELSE ALL THE WAY TO JAPAN...

BUT, EVEN STILL-- ≠BRRR≠... I'M SO HUNGRY...

I'M FINISHED...

HUH? IT'S PROBABLY A WEASEL.

HEY, *BUTANOV!* THERE'S SOMETHING OVER THERE!

WHAT?! WHAT?! HE MUST'VE JUST FALLEN OVER DEAD!

AAH! HE'S FROZEN!

LET'S RUSH HIM BACK TO MY HOUSE FOR NOW!

HE WAS ONLY FROZEN FOR A SHORT TIME... WE CAN STILL SAVE HIM!

=BRRR=...

MISTER, WHERE DID YOU COME HERE FROM? ... GEE, YOU'RE LIKE A PIG-- YOU EAT SO MUCH!

I APPRECIATE IT =MUNCH= =MUNCH= I'LL SAY THANKS =MUNCH= AFTER I EAT THIS... =MUNCH!=

NEVER MIND THE GRATITUDE. TELL US WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU!

A WAR! I ESCAPED HERE FROM AN UNDERGROUND FACTORY.

OH--I JUST REMEMBERED! NOBODY FOLLOWED ME HERE, DID THEY? PLEASE CHECK.

THERE AIN'T A SINGLE PERSON OUT THERE! THERE'S PROBABLY SOME MOUNTAIN DOGS AND OTHER SMALL ANIMALS MOVING ABOUT, BUT...

THIS IS A PEACEFUL VILLAGE, MISTER. YOU CAN STAY HERE AS LONG AS YOU WANT, IF YOU LIKE!

I APPRECIATE IT, BUT ONCE I EAT THIS, I'M GONNA LEAVE RIGHT AWAY!

YOU'RE GOING TO LEAVE? WHERE TO?

JAPAN!

BUTANOV, YOU GOTTA LEND 'IM YER BOAT!

PLEASE WAIT!

IF YOU FOLLOW THE FLOW OF THE SEA, YOU CAN REACH JAPAN. THIS MAY LOOK LIKE A RATTY OLD BOAT, BUT IT'S BETTER THAN BECOMING FOOD FOR MONKEYS, RIGHT?

YUP! I APPRE-CIATE THIS!

FAREWELL AND TAKE CARE, OKAY?

DON'T GET BOMBED BY AIRPLANES!

ELDER, THEY SAY THERE IS FIGHTING AGAIN...

SO THERE IS. EVERYONE PLEASE GATHER IN THE CHURCH. COME, COME!

PEOPLE OF THE VILLAGE! HAVE YOU HEARD? ANOTHER GREAT WAR HAS BEGUN! WE SHOULD LOOK TO THE FUTURE. TO BE SURE, THE COMING OF THE LORD'S JUDGMENT HAS ALREADY BEEN DECIDED. ALL OF US MUST REMEMBER THE TALE OF NOAH'S ARK, I SAY...

LONG, LONG AGO, EVIL PEOPLE FLOURISHED, AND THERE CAME A TIME WHEN THE WORLD FELL INTO CHAOS!

THE LORD BECAME GREAT WITH RAGE AND RELEASED A GREAT FLOOD UPON THE EARTH. THUS ALL THE PEOPLE WERE DROWNED AND NOT A SINGLE PERSON WAS LEFT ALIVE!

THIS WAS THE FAMOUS FLOOD OF LEGEND...

HOWEVER, THE LORD SAVED A SINGLE HONEST AND RIGHTEOUS FARMER NAMED NOAH WHO GOT IN AN ARK AND THUS MADE HIS ESCAPE.

AAH! WE DON'T HAVE ANY MEMORY OF DOING ANYTHING BAD!

WHEN THE WRATH OF HEAVEN COMES DOWN HE'D LET US RIDE ALONG IN THAT ARK THING, WOULDN'T HE?

ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT, BUTANOV. YOU NEEDN'T WORRY, BECAUSE THE LORD KNOWS ALL THINGS, YOU SEE?

ELDER, THAT'S NO FAIR! I WANNA GET IN THE ARK TOO!

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? YOU HAVE TO GET IN LINE!

OKAY! COME, COME!

EVERY-ONE HAD BEST PRAY FOR GOD'S BLESS-INGS WITHOUT FIGHTING.

RIGHT! HEY, EVERYONE! LET'S PRAY!

I KINDLY BEG THAT YOU PLEASE GIMME A RESERVED SEAT ON THE ARK!

PLEASE CURE THIS GUY RAMUNENKO OF HIS GREED. AMEN!

OUR FATHER WHO ART IN HEAVEN, THY KINGDOM COME, THY WILL BE DONE, ON EARTH AS IN HEAVEN... AMEN.

BONG BONG BONG

BONG BONG

FUMOON!
WAAAH!!
EEEEEK!
WAAAH!
≠AAH!≠
WH-WH-WHAT'S HAPPENING?!
I DON'T KNOW ANY-THING!

CRUMBLE CRUMBLE CRUMBLE CRUMBLE

Y-YOU DON'T KNOW?! HOW COULD YOU BE SO IRRESPONSIBLE?!

IT'S NOT MY FAULT! PLEASE *HAAALP!*

SNAP THUMP

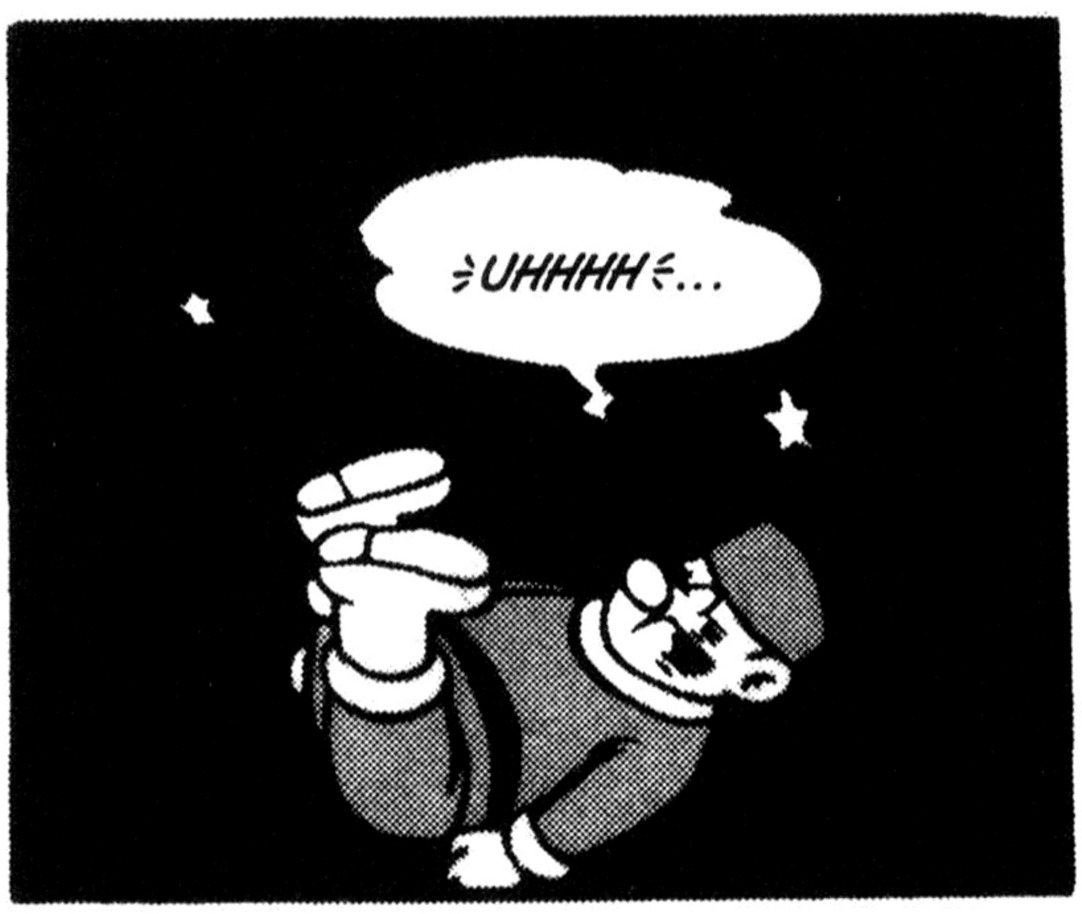
DEAR LORD!

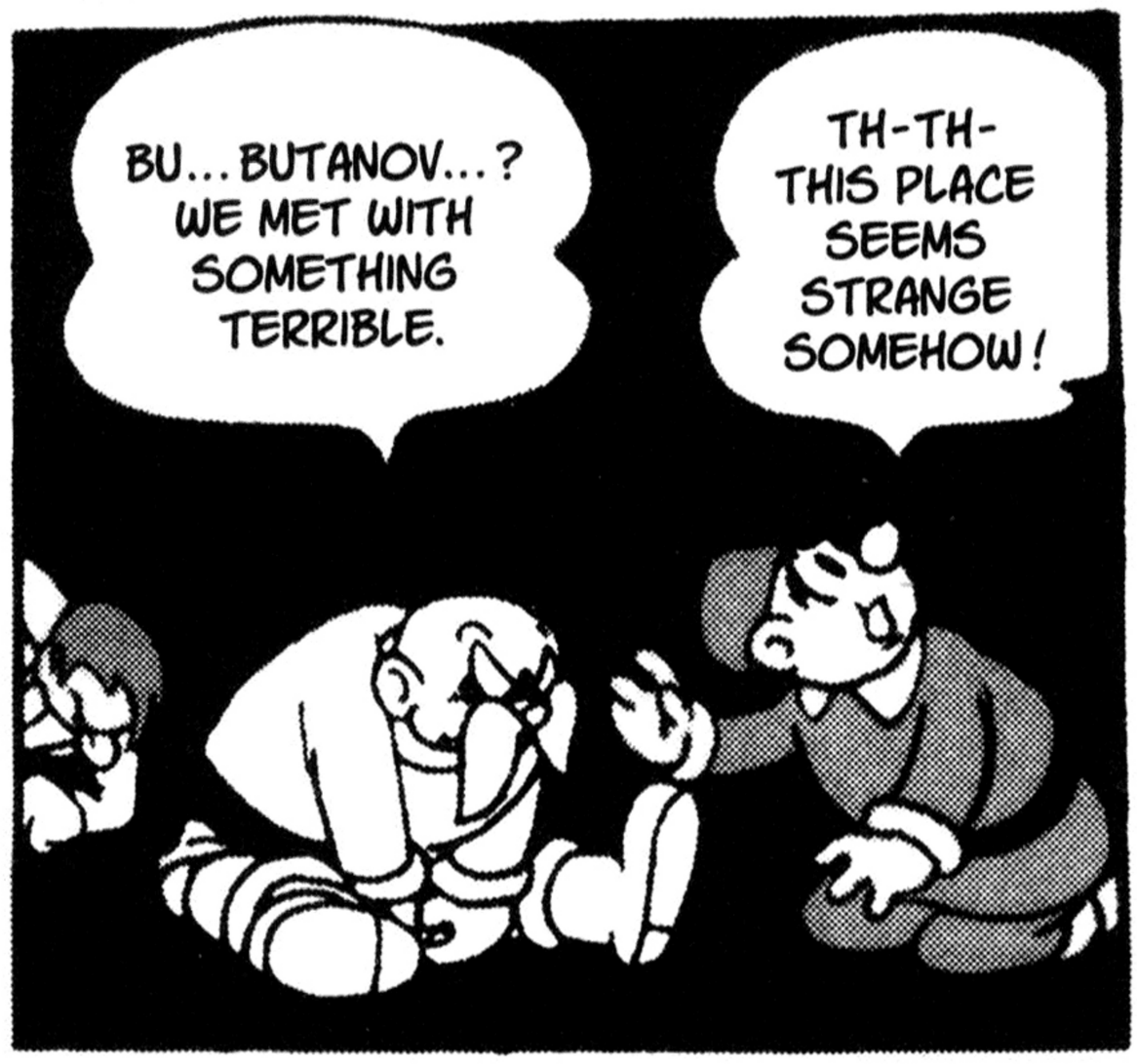
SLAM WHAM SLAM

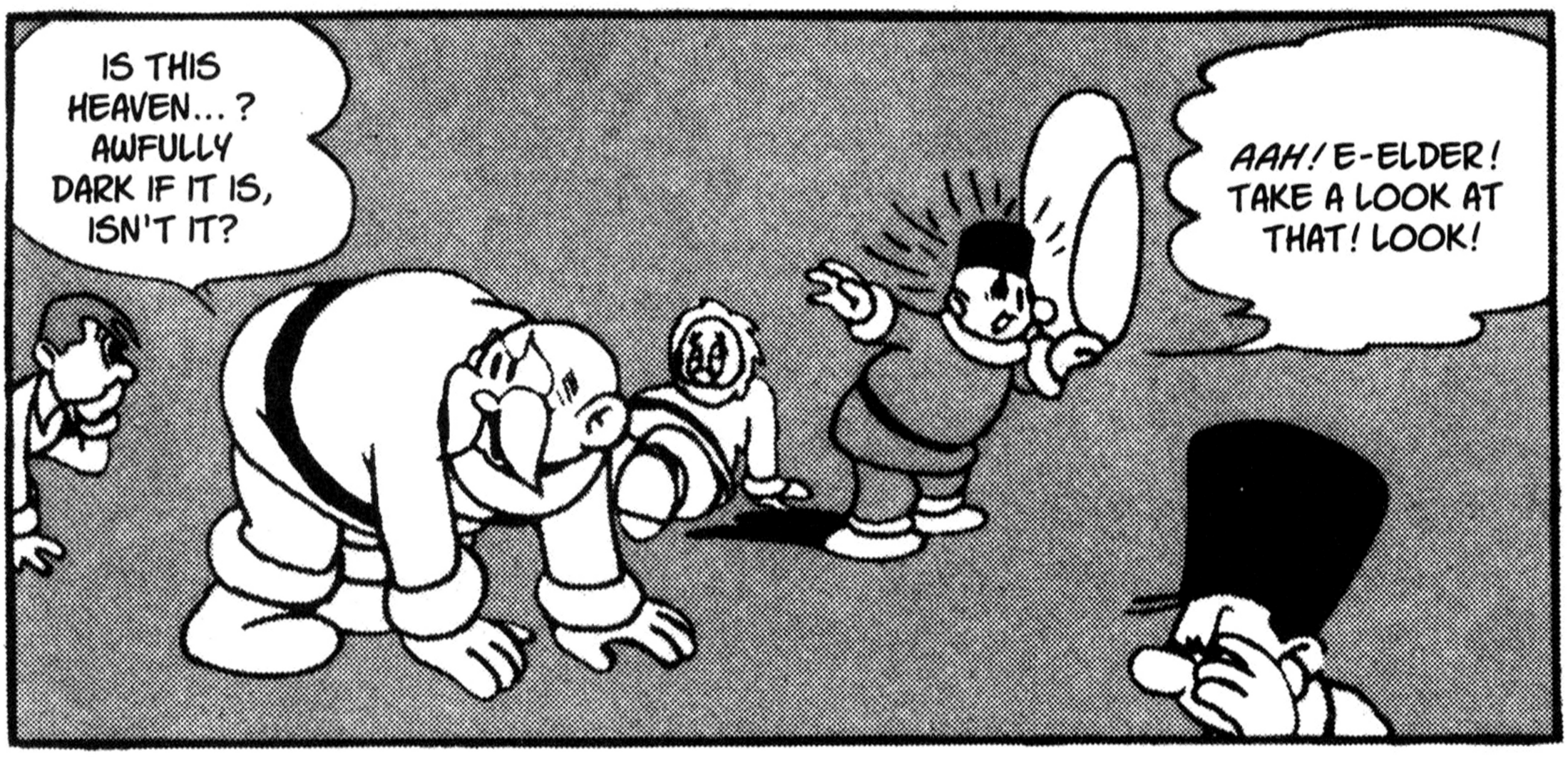
THUD THUD THUD CRASH

BA-BAM BOOF

THE ELDER'S PERSPECTIVE OF NOAH'S ARK







ELDER!! THIS SURE IS A STRANGE VIEW, ISN'T IT?

HMM... A-ALL OF YOU! I FIGURED IT OUT!

FIGURED OUT WHAT ...?

LISTEN! THERE'S NO MISTAKE, THIS PLACE... IS HEAVEN!

HE SAYS IT'S HEAVEN!

OHH... SO *THIS* IS HEAVEN...

BOY, THIS HEAVEN PLACE IS AWFULLY HOT!

IDIOT! THAT'S PROOF THAT IT'S HEAVEN SINCE HEAVEN IS SO CLOSE TO THE SUN!

THOSE ROUND THINGS SOMEHOW SEEM LIKE VEHICLES! ELDER, COULDN'T THEY BE ARKS...? WELL, CIRCULAR ARKS ANYWAY.

YIPE! SOMEONE JUST FELL IN HERE!!

YOU HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR. I AM THE ONE THAT BROUGHT YOU ALL HERE.

≥AAH!≤ ≥AIEE!≤ ≥WAAH!≤ ≥AAH!≤ ≥AAH!≤

I BELIEVE THERE IS A MAN AMONG YOU CALLED MUSTACHIO...

MUST-ACHIO?

MUST-ACHE?

I HAVE BUSINESS ONLY WITH THIS HUMAN.

=A-AHEM.= I'M THE VILLAGE ELDER, AND I'M 68 THIS YEAR, BUT I'VE NEVER HEARD SUCH A NAME. *UHH...*

I AM CERTAIN THAT HE ENTERED YOUR VILLAGE.

HE WAS A JAPANESE GUY, RIGHT?

HE ALREADY GOT IN A BOAT AND WENT AWAY A LONG TIME AGO!

HE WENT AWAY?!

GRRRRRR...

FUMOON...

P-PLEASE WAIT!!

PUT ME DOWN! IF YOU DON'T PUT ME DOWN...

PLEASE! YOU HAVE TO HELP US!

NO!! SINCE I HAVE NO MORE USE FOR YOU LOT, I WILL TAKE YOU BACK TO WHERE YOU WERE BEFORE!

OH, NO! P-PLEASE, LET US STAY RIGHT HERE IN HEAVEN LIKE THIS!

WHEN WILL WE SEE THY FACE, O LORD...

ALL OF US WOULD LIKE TO RIDE IN THE NOAH'S ARKS.

NOAH'S ARK...?

YES. THOSE THINGS OVER THERE.

HMM. YOU'D LIKE TO RIDE IN THOSE THINGS?

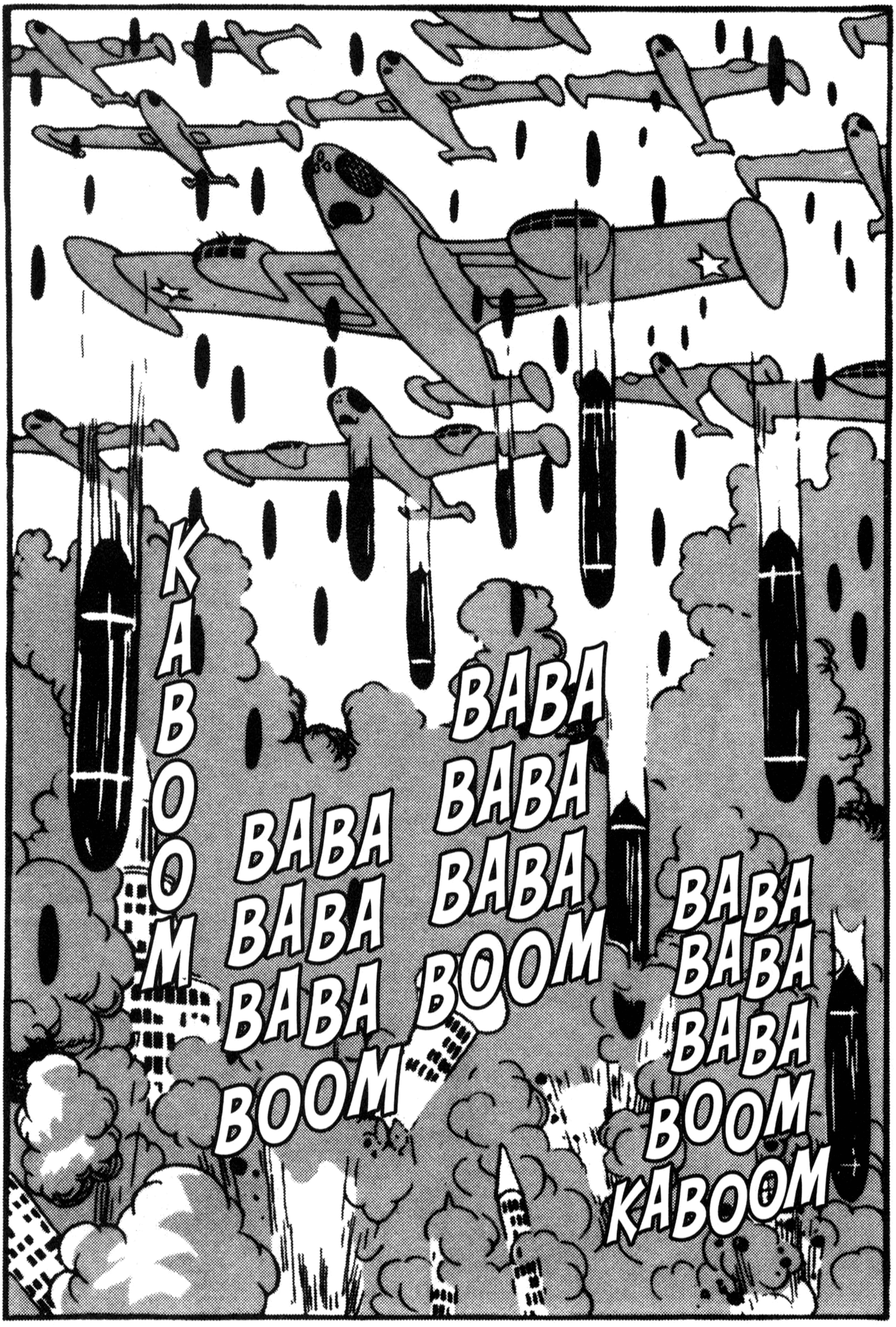
FUMOON... FINE. AS YOU WISH, YOU SHALL BE ALLOWED TO COME ALONG.

YAHOO! HIP HIP HOORAY!!

EVERY-ONE, QUIET!

YOU SEE, WE HAVE BEEN CHOSEN BY GOD, LIKE RIGHTEOUS NOAH. AS SUCH, YOU SHOULD ALL FEEL HONORED!

JUDGMENT OF THE DEFEATED GENERAL


KA
BOOM
BABA
BABA
BABA
BOOM
BABA
BABA
BOOM
BABA
BABA
BOOM
KABOOM

RRRUMBLE RRUMBLE RUMBLE

KSSH KSSH

COURT MARTIAL CHAMBER

...B-BUT I AM POSITIVE WE CAME AGAINST A THIRD ENEMY!

CLEARLY MY BATTLESHIP, *THE NIKOLAUS*, WAS LIFTED HIGH INTO THE AIR BY SOME PARTY OTHER THAN THE ***NATION OF STAR***...

IF SO, THEN IT WAS NOT JUST YOU, SIR...

...BUT THE WHOLE NAVY MUST HAVE BEEN SEEING THINGS DRUNK, YES? *HAH HAH HAH!*

NO! I'M SURE I HEARD A VOICE WITH THESE VERY EARS!

SILENCE! NO ***OTHER*** PERSON HEARD SUCH A THING, DID THEY?

COLONEL BOLORKIN, THAT IS THE END OF YOUR DEFENSE PLEA. AT ANY RATE, THANKS TO YOUR RETREAT...

...OUR SITU-ATION IS AS IT IS NOW.

THIS IS YOUR LAST DRINK. BE SURE TO DRINK IT ALL SLOWLY!

HUH?! MY LAST DRINK?!

PLEASE JUST SPARE MY LIFE, EXCELLENCY! FORGIVE ME!

REPORT!

ACCORDING TO THIS TELEGRAPHIC MESSAGE WE JUST RECEIVED, THERE WAS A SUSPICIOUS TRAIN ACCIDENT ON URAN RAILWAYS.

WE DON'T CARE ABOUT SUCH NEWS!

TH-THERE'S SOMETHING STRANGE ABOUT IT. THE ENGINEER SAYS HE HEARD SOME MYSTERIOUS VOICE.

WHAT?!

THEY SAY HE IS THE ONLY ONE WHO HEARD THE VOICE.

AAH! THAT'S IT! THAT'S IT!

THAT'S THE VOICE I HEARD! PLEASE LET ME MEET THAT ENGINEER. IF YOU DO, EVERYTHING CAN BE--

=HMPH!= ABSURD!

UH... BY THE WAY, COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE UNDER-GROUND FACTORY NEAR THAT SAME AREA SUDDENLY STOPPED.

HUH?!

UPON INVESTIGATION, THE UNDERGROUND FACTORY WAS IN COMPLETE RUINS AND THE WHOLE THING WAS BURIED AND... NEITHER THE FACTORY MANAGER NOR ANY OTHER PERSONS WERE TO BE FOUND.

WH-WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY THAT SOONER?!

THIS IS A HUGE EMERGENCY!

KEEP THIS WHOLE THING A SECRET. UNDER-STAND?

FOOLS! DON'T PANIC!

THAT MEANS *POPONYA* TOO...

...HMM. THAT'S *IRON HEART!* HE DOESN'T KNOW WHETHER HIS OWN DAUGHTER LIVED OR DIED IN THE FACTORY, BUT HE DOESN'T EVEN BAT AN EYE!

CRACK CRACK

RRRUMBLE

TH-THUMP

TV BROADCAST BOOTH

CONNECT ME TO THE NATION OF STAR. I WANT TO SEE REDONOV.

YES, SIR! WE'LL PUT YOU THROUGH. WE'LL HAVE CONTACT SOON.

AHH, MR. REDONOV. HOW ARE THINGS THERE?

OH, MINISTER.

EVERYTHING IS FINE HERE. ONLY, IF WE USE THE TELEVISION TOO MUCH, THE SPECIAL POLICE MAY GET WIND OF US, YOU SEE?

AT ANY RATE, SINCE I'VE BEEN HIDING OUT HERE EVER SINCE THE DAY THE WAR STARTED, IT SEEMS THAT THEY'VE BEEN LOOKING FRANTICALLY FOR THIS STATION.

HM. INCIDENTALLY, YOUR SON IVAN HAS GIVEN HIS LIFE FOR HIS COUNTRY.

WHAT?! MY SON IS DEAD?!

I CONVEY MY SYMPATHIES.

IVAN... HE WAS PREPARED FOR IT.

YOU TOO MUST BE AS CAREFUL AS POSSIBLE... WELL, THEN. UNTIL NEXT TIME.

MR. REDONOV! =HICCUP!=

HUH? WHAT'S WRONG? ARE YOU CRYING?

IVAN'S SITUATION

YOU THINK I CRY?! I'VE JUST GOT SOMETHING IN MY EYE.

=HICCUP!= MR. REDONOV, THE SPECIAL POLICE HAVE SNIFFED OUT THIS HIDEAWAY!! =HICCUP!=

WE'RE DONE FOR!

=HMPH!= WE STILL HAVE TIME!

ALL OF YOU, RUN AWAY!!

NO, WE'VE GOT TO DO SOME-THING!

IT'D BE DUMB TO JUST TAKE OFF *NOW!*

AH! THEY'RE ALREADY HERE!

WE'RE TOO LATE!

WOO WOO WOO

BLAST!! THOSE SONS OF-- TAKE *THIS!*

BANG

FWING

BLAM

FWING

BANG

MR. REDONOV! NOTARLIN HAS COME HERE IN PERSON!

HEY! YOU SPIES!! WE'VE GOT YOU TRAPPED IN A CORNER. NOW COME OUT WITH-OUT FIGHTING!

AND IF REDONOV IS IN THERE WITH YOU, THEN TELL US NOW!!

BA BA BA BANG BANG

BABABABLAM

BANG

PWING

PWING

klik klik

BANG

BLAM

BUDDABUDDABUDD

ABUDDA

GIVE ME SOME BULLETS!

DON'T HAVE ANY... =HICCUP!=

THIS IS THE END FOR ME!

EVERYONE, SORRY TO LEAVE BEFORE YOU...

BA BANG

BANG

IVAN, NOW I WILL JOIN YOU.

SLAM

=URGH!!=

STICK 'EM UP!!

≠HMPH!≠ SO IT'S *YOU!* KNOWN BY *HIC* AND OTHER NAMES. GIVING THE MONEY TO THAT POOR PERSON TO BECOME A SPY WAS YOUR HANDIWORK!

THAT'S RIGHT! ≠HICCUP!≠

THERE'S SOMEBODY FLATTENED OUT OVER HERE, TOO.

OH! THAT NOSE MUST BE REDONOV'S!

NOTAR-LIN... ≠URRR≠ ...

HAH HAH HA HA! I SEE YOU'VE COME TO. WE'VE BEEN LOOKING HARD FOR YOUR LITTLE HIDE-OUT...

...HOW UNFORTU-NATE I FAILED TO DIE.

STOP THINKING ABOUT DEATH. STARTING NOW, YOU'RE GOING TO BE OUR HONORED GUEST FOR AWHILE ...

DON'T BE DIS-HEARTENED! *WAH HA HA HA HA!*

GET IN!

≠HICCUP!≠ ≠HIC!≠

=HICCUP!=
=HICCUP!=

WOO WOO WOO

SAY! AIN'T THAT THAT MR. HIC FELLA?

RIGHT. THE PHI-LANTHRO-PIST.

THAT'S *NOTAR-LIN* IN THE BACK.

MASS CO

I'VE GOT A BONE TO PICK WITH THAT NOTARLIN GUY.

HE WENT AND THREW ME IN THE SLAMMER.

ME AND THAT *ROCK* KID BOTH...

BUT THEY LET HIM GO 'CAUSE HE WAS RICH!

KUNK

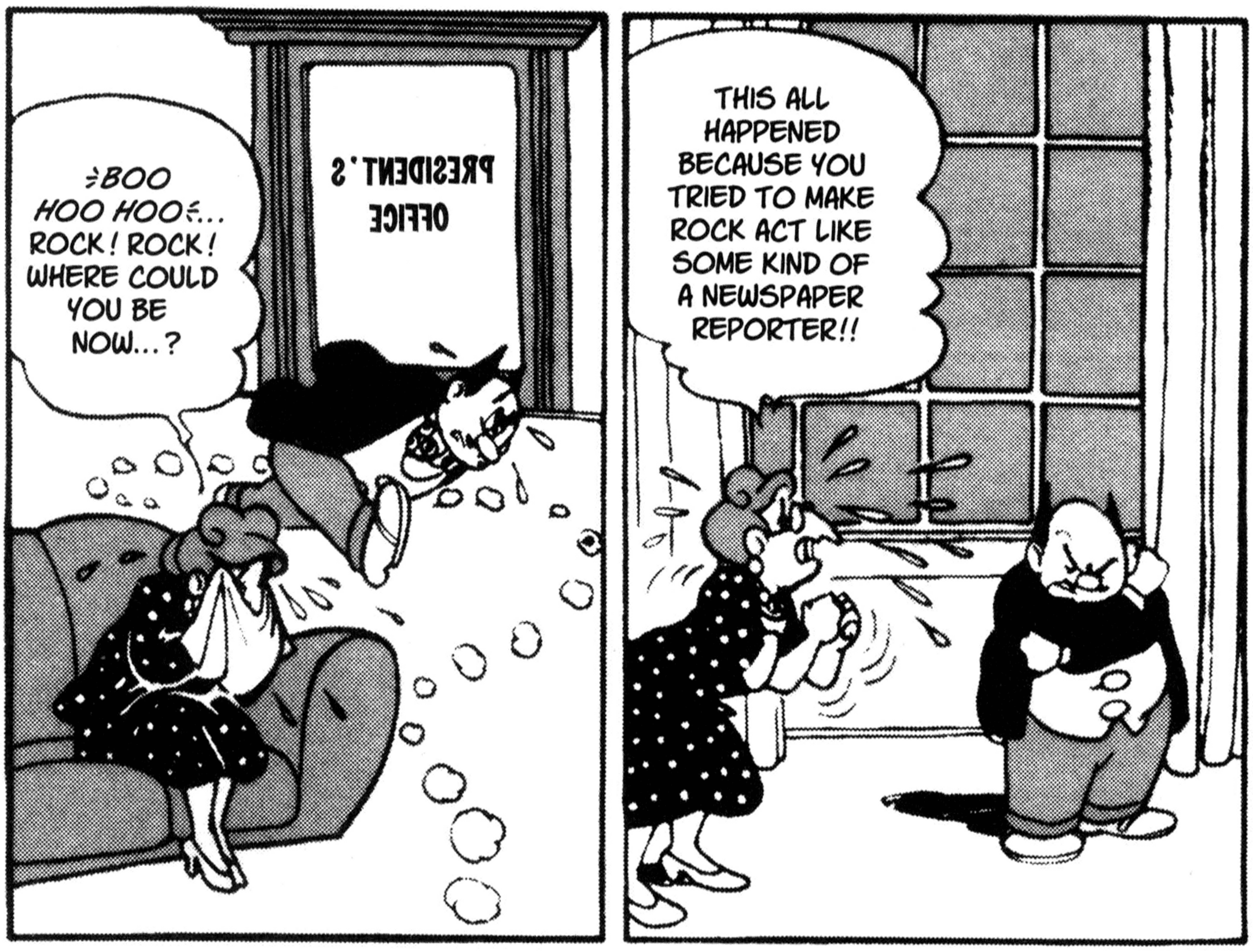
A-*HA*! ROCK ...

HMM! I JUST FOUND ME A TREE THAT GROWS MONEY!

WHAT-CHA GONNA DO?

A DARK NEBULA IN ORION

ROCK'S SITUATION


PRESIDENT'S OFFICE
≠BOO HOO HOO≠... ROCK! ROCK! WHERE COULD YOU BE NOW...?
THIS ALL HAPPENED BECAUSE YOU TRIED TO MAKE ROCK ACT LIKE SOME KIND OF A NEWSPAPER REPORTER!!

AS YOU KNOW, I RELEASED AN AD IN THE MISSING PERSONS SECTION THAT WE RUN EVERY DAY IN MY NEWSPAPER.

ACCORDING TO PEOPLE WHO SAW HIM...

...A BOY WHO FIT ROCK'S DESCRIPTION WAS TALKING TO NOTARLIN IN A DEPART-MENT STORE.

HOWEVER, AFTER THAT, NO ONE HAS SEEN HIM SINCE!

MR. PRESIDENT, SOMEONE HAS ARRIVED WHO SAYS HE HAS SOME-THING IMPORTANT TO TELL YOU ABOUT YOUR SON.

WHAT ?! ROCK !!

DEAR, LET HIM IN!

BUT THIS PERSON SEEMS LIKE A STRANGE HOMELESS MAN--

I DON'T CARE! I'LL SEE HIM!

EHEH HEH HEH! THEY CALL ME *LAMP.*

PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

...AND I'M ALSO A MAN YOU ONCE LET WORK IN ONE OF YOUR COMPANY'S FACTORIES, SIR. *HEH HEH!*

TELL US YOUR PURPOSE QUICKLY! YOUR ***PURPOSE!***

NOW THAT IT'S COME TO THIS, WE'LL GIVE YOU WHATEVER YOU DESIRE. ARE YOU HIDING THAT CHILD?

N-NO SUCH THING, MA'AM!

HEH HEH. I JUST ***HAPPENED*** TO MEET MASTER ROCK PURELY BY CHANCE!

WELL, NOW. IT WAS IN FRONT OF THE FOUNTAIN IN THE PARK, SEE? I ALSO KNOW WHERE MASTER ROCK WENT AFTER THAT, BUT--

THIS IS TORTURE! GRRR... EXACTLY HOW MUCH MONEY DO YOU WANT TO TALK?!

LEMME PUT IT TO YOU STRAIGHT.

ABOUT ***ONE MILLION DOLLARS*** IN ROUND NUM-BERS, OKAY?

WHU-ONE MILLION DOLLARS ?!

Y-YOU FIEND!!

IT'S CHEAP IF IT TELLS YOU WHERE YOUR KID IS!

OHHH! I CAN'T PAY THAT MUCH!!

WELL, THEN. IT SEEMS BEST THAT I JUST GO AHEAD AND SAY MY GOODBYES!

WAIT!!

WHOA-HO-HO! YOU CAN'T BE CALLING FOR HELP.

A-A-ARE YOU TRYING TO THREATEN ME?!

HEH HEH! I JUST ESCAPED FROM THE JOINT. I'M A WANTED MAN, SEE? YOU HAND ME OVER TO THE POLICE AND I'M IN BIG TROUBLE!

DEAR! OUR BOY WON'T EVER BE ABLE TO COME BACK! LET HIM HAVE THE MONEY!

INDEED, INDEED! THE LADY HERE UNDERSTANDS WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT. ALL RIGHT. NOW WRITE A BANK CHECK...

=GRRR!= ONE... MILLION... DOLLARS...

ONE MILLION DOLLARS! I'M SO RICH...

NOW, SAY IT, VILLAIN! TELL ME WHERE ROCK IS AT!!

LET ME TELL YOU. YOUR KID, SEE? HE BECAME A SPY AND WAS SENT TO THE *URAN FEDERATION!* THAT CHIEF OF THE SPECIAL POLICE, NOTARLIN, YEAH? HE TALKED YOUR KID INTO IT AND WENT AND SECRETLY TRAINED HIM TO BE A SPY!

YOUR KID'S IN THE URAN FEDERATION. THAT'S EVERYTHING! *HEH HEH!* WELL, SORRY FOR DISTURBING YOU...

OHH! OUR BOY!

IS THAT THE TRUTH?!

OOH, OOH, ≠*GRRR,*≠ ≠*GRRR!*≠ THAT NOTARLIN! I-I-IF IT'S TRUE, THEN I'LL TEACH HIM A THING OR TWO!

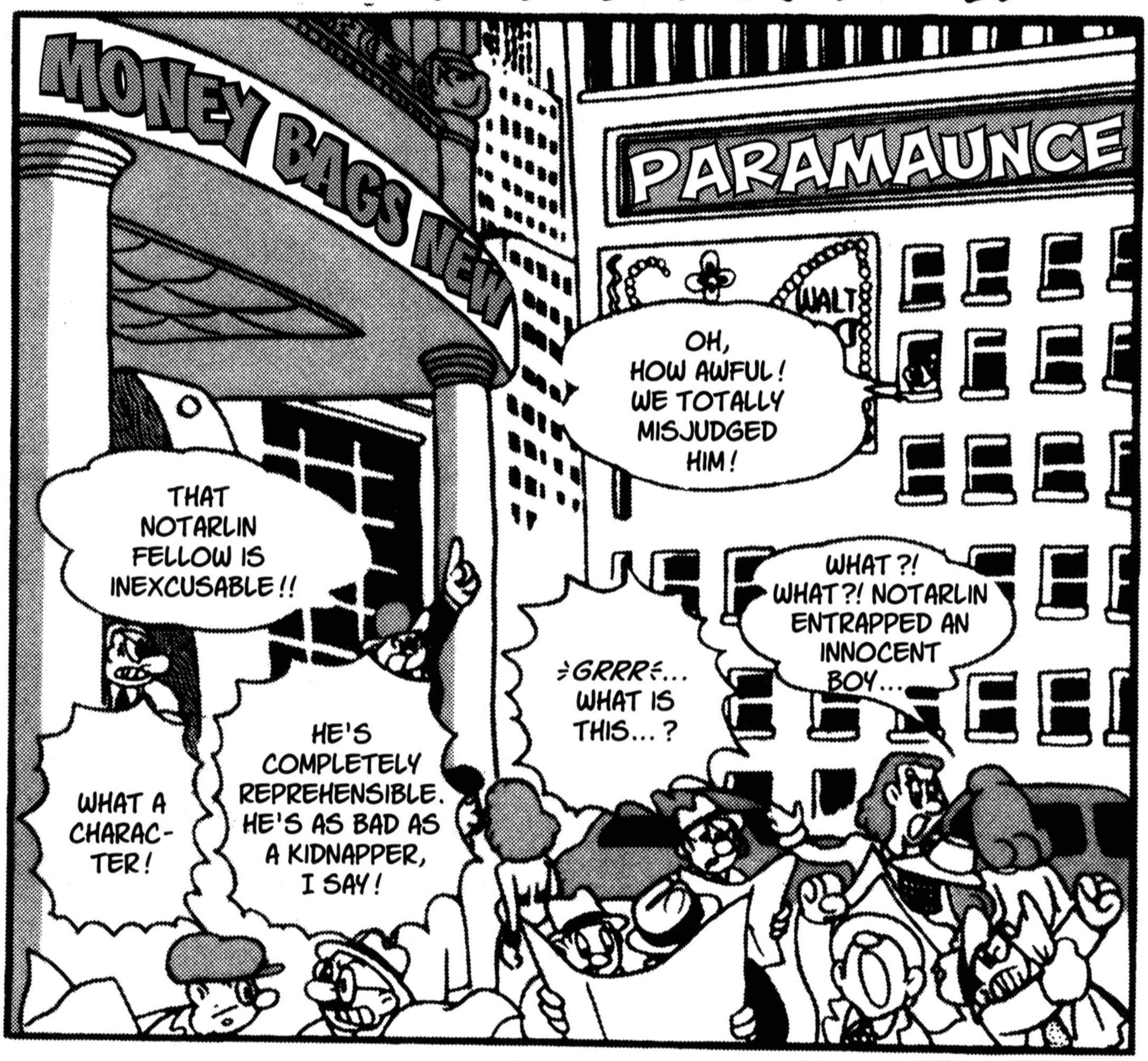
HEH HEH! HOW 'BOUT THAT? A GRAND SUCCESS! I'VE BECOME EXTREMELY RICH!

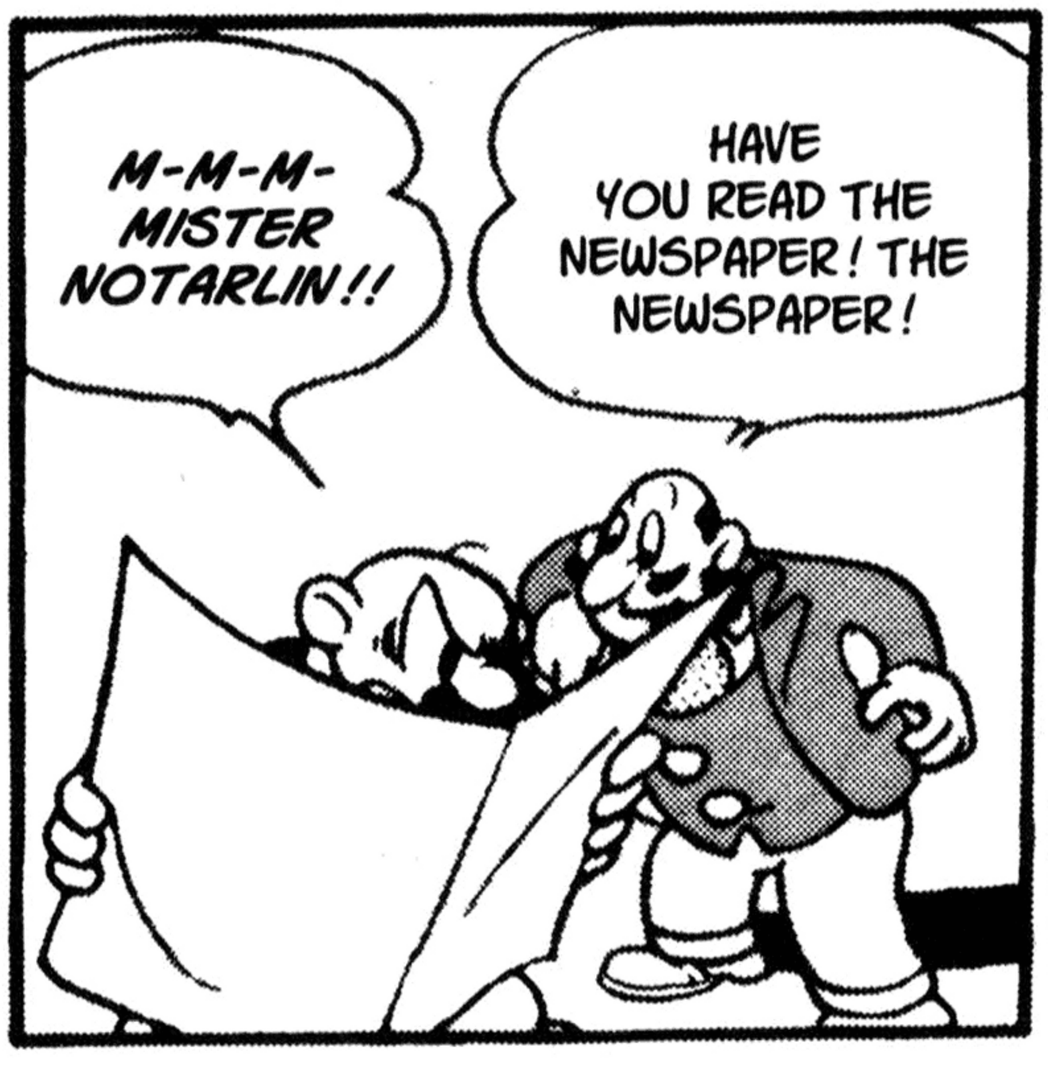
BOY, YOU SURE PULLED THAT OFF!

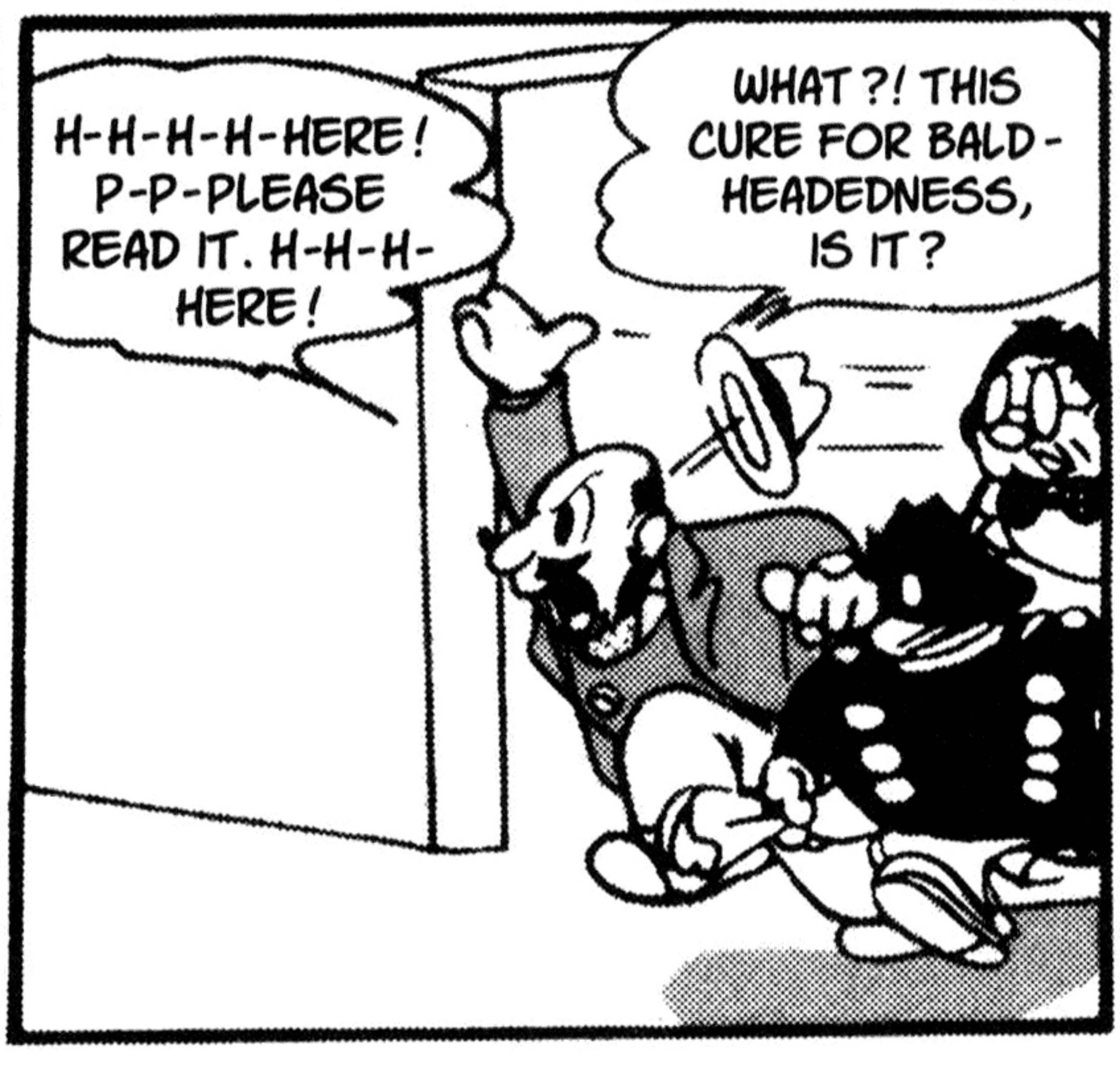
WHY, THAT'S ENOUGH TO HAVE FUN WITH YER *WHOLE LIFE!*

DON'T BE STUPID... I... I WANT MORE! MORE MONEY...

COCOA'S SITUATION


MONEY BAGS NEWS
PARAMAUNCE
WALT
OH, HOW AWFUL! WE TOTALLY MISJUDGED HIM!
THAT NOTARLIN FELLOW IS INEXCUSABLE!!
HE'S COMPLETELY REPREHENSIBLE. HE'S AS BAD AS A KIDNAPPER, I SAY!
WHAT A CHARAC-TER!
=GRRR=... WHAT IS THIS...?
WHAT?! WHAT?! NOTARLIN ENTRAPPED AN INNOCENT BOY...





NO, NOT THAT ONE... THIS ONE.

IT'S A NURSERY RHYME CALLED "A SINGLE HAIR ON A BALD HEAD"!

HEY, YOU! WH-WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO MAKE ME READ HERE?!

YOU'RE MISTAKEN AGAIN. IT'S HERE. *THIS* ARTICLE.

GUHHHRRRR

≠RARR!≠ ≠DING≠ ≠DONG≠ ≠WHOOP≠ ≠WHO-OP!≠

WH-WH-WH-WH-WHO'S THE ONE WHO WROTE SUCH TERRIBLE THINGS ABOUT ME?! ≠GRRR!≠ ARREST THE PRESIDENT OF THIS NEWSPAPER!!

YES, SIR!

WOO WOO

CRUMPLE SHRED

HAH HAH! MR. NOTARLIN DID YOU RECEIVE NEWS OF A LOST BATTLE?

OF COURSE NOT! MY ARMY WILL ABSOLUTELY WIN!

SOME PERSON JUST WROTE INCREDIBLY SLANDEROUS THINGS ABOUT ME!

OH!

THE FATHER OF THIS KID CALLED ROCK, WHO I MADE INTO A SPY, HAS A TERRIBLE GRUDGE AGAINST ME. HE SAYS I'M THE SAME AS A "KIDNAPPER"!

A-HA.

WE ARRESTED THE PRESIDENT!

=GRRR!= GIVE ME BACK ROCK, NOTARLIN!

Y-Y-Y-YOUSE MADE ME OUT TO BE SOME KIND OF KIDNAPPER... UN-UN-UNPATRIOTIC TRAITOR!!

YOU HAVE A CHILD TOO, DON'T YOU?! TRY AND THINK ABOUT HOW *YOU'D* FEEL IF THAT CHILD WENT MISSING!

WHAT'D YOU SAY?! =GRR-RRR!=

YOU'RE CAUSING RIOTS! PUT THIS "SECURITY RISK" INTO GRADE *A* DETENTION BLOCK.

YES, SIR!

GIVE ME BACK ROCK!!!

M-M-MR. NOTARLIN! TROUBLE AGAIN! *BIG TROUBLE!*

YOUR "TROUBLE" IS ALWAYS A PROBLEM. WHAT IS IT THIS TIME?

IT'S A TELE-GRAM.

WHAT?!?!?!

AIEEEE!

WHAT'S WRONG? *THIS TIME* IS IT WORD OF A LOST BATTLE?

IT'S FROM XO SKI RESORT.

ATTACKED BY PERSONS
UNKNOWN STOP SKI RESORT
COMPLETELY DESTROYED
STOP REQUESTING BACKUP
TROOPS STOP COCOA'S
WHEREABOUTS
UNKNOWN

AAAH! COCOA!!

PERSONS UNKNOWN? WHO COULD THAT BE? HAVE MY TROOPS GOTTEN AS FAR AS XO SKI RESORT?

YAIEEE!!

COME ON! GIVE HER BACK, YOU SON OF A--! GIVE ME BACK COCOA!!

SHE *MUST* HAVE BEEN CAPTURED BY YOUR ARMY!

YOU HAVE A SON, DON'T YOU?! TRY AND THINK ABOUT HOW *YOU'D* FEEL IF YOU DIDN'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO THAT CHILD!!

MY BE-LOVED SON IS DEAD! THANKS TO YOUR COUN-TRY!

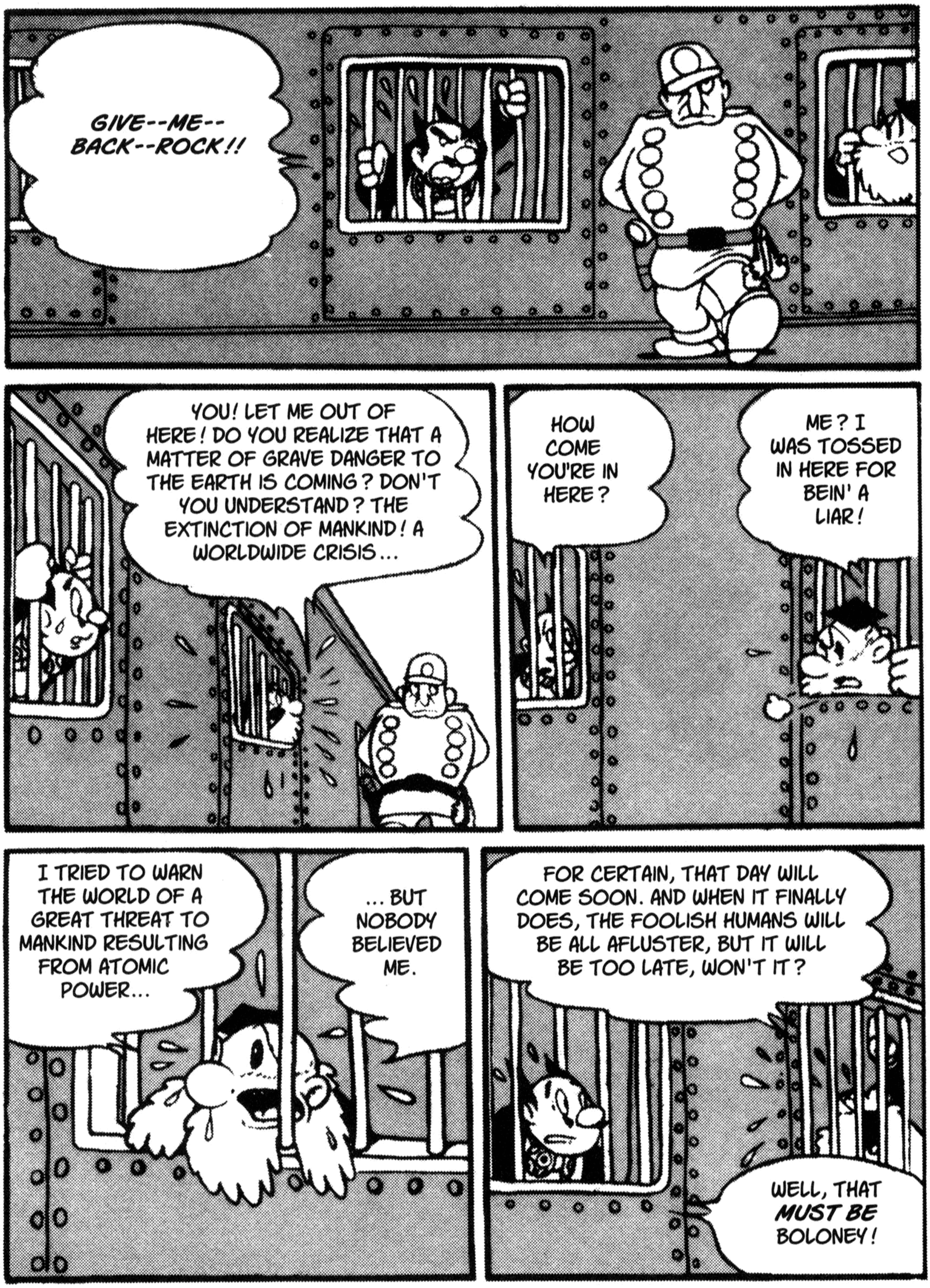
YOU REAP WHAT YOU SOW!

WH-WH-WHAT'D YOU SAY?!

GIVE ME BACK COCOA!!

WHAT?! GIVE ME BACK IVAN!!

THE LIAR AND THE MYSTERIOUS GENTLEMAN


GIVE--ME--
BACK--ROCK!!
YOU! LET ME OUT OF HERE! DO YOU REALIZE THAT A MATTER OF GRAVE DANGER TO THE EARTH IS COMING? DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND? THE EXTINCTION OF MANKIND! A WORLDWIDE CRISIS...
HOW COME YOU'RE IN HERE?
ME? I WAS TOSSED IN HERE FOR BEIN' A LIAR!
I TRIED TO WARN THE WORLD OF A GREAT THREAT TO MANKIND RESULTING FROM ATOMIC POWER...
... BUT NOBODY BELIEVED ME.
FOR CERTAIN, THAT DAY WILL COME SOON. AND WHEN IT FINALLY DOES, THE FOOLISH HUMANS WILL BE ALL AFLUSTER, BUT IT WILL BE TOO LATE, WON'T IT?
WELL, THAT MUST BE BOLONEY!

=HACK!= CAN'T TALK ANYMORE...

I'LL TAKE A BREATHER BEFORE SHOUTING AGAIN.

CREEEK

DR. YAMA-DANO, SOME-BODY'S HERE TO BAIL YOU OUT.

BAIL ME OUT? WHO IS THIS ODD INDIVIDUAL?

BONK

AIEE! YOU GOT ME OUT TO EAT ME, DIDN'T YOU?!

...I AM *DOCTOR FRANKENSTEIN*...

UHH...
UHH... WHERE ARE YOU PLANNING ON TAKING ME?

WHY ARE YOU LOOKING SO SEVERE, HM...?

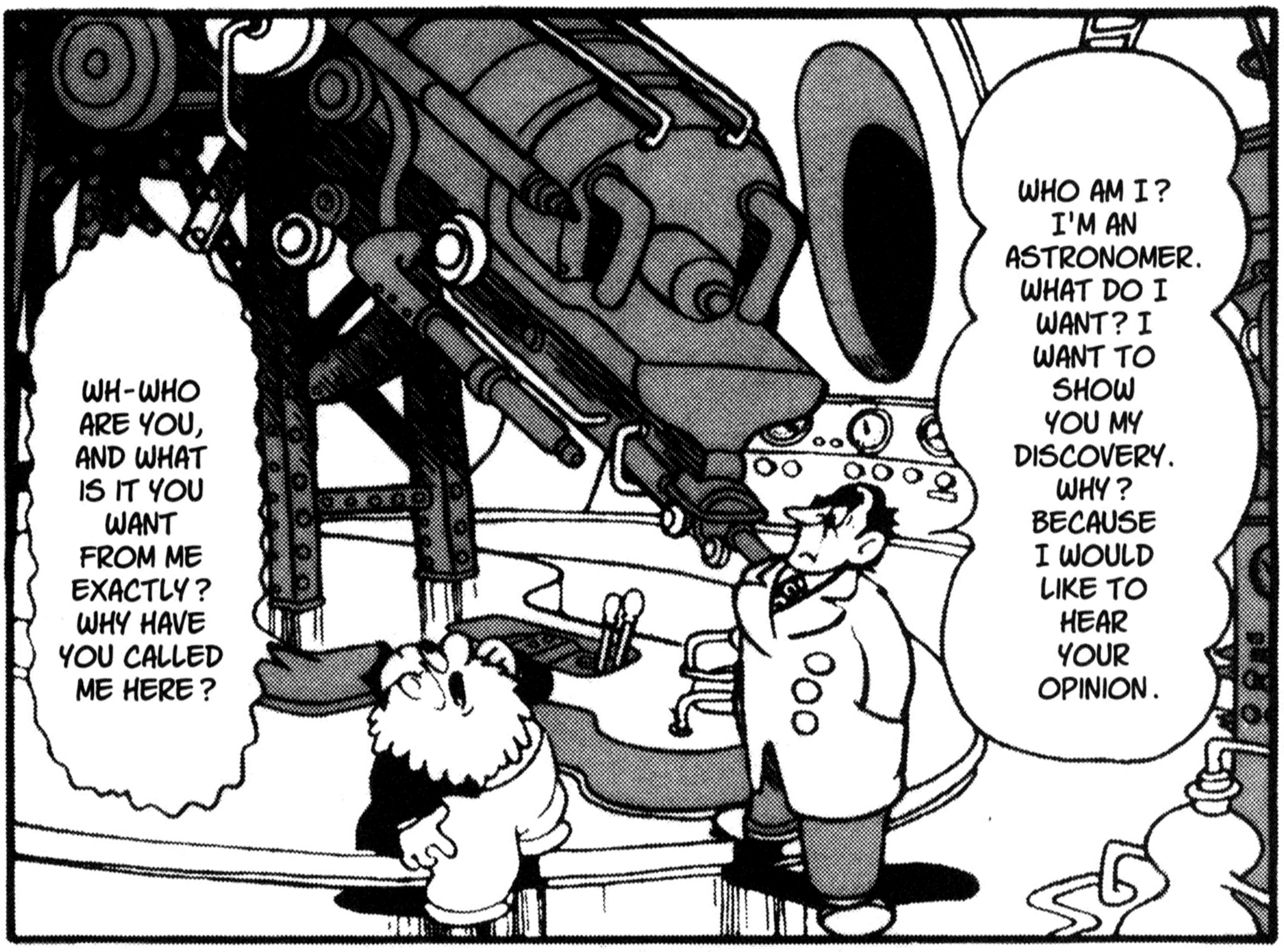
DR. YAMADANO, I WILL GUIDE YOU TO MY HOME.

VROOM

HERE IT IS.

ENTER.

I LIVE ALONE.


WH-WHO ARE YOU, AND WHAT IS IT YOU WANT FROM ME EXACTLY? WHY HAVE YOU CALLED ME HERE?
WHO AM I? I'M AN ASTRONOMER. WHAT DO I WANT? I WANT TO SHOW YOU MY DISCOVERY. WHY? BECAUSE I WOULD LIKE TO HEAR YOUR OPINION.

I HAVE ALREADY LINED UP AND FOCUSED THE TELESCOPE FOR YOU. NOW, PLEASE LOOK.

YOU CAN SEE IT, CAN'T YOU?

A BLOOD-CURDLING PREDICTION

I SAW A NEBULA IN THE SHAPE OF A CHAPEAU.

LET ME DOWN AL-READY.

THAT NEBULA WAS CREATED BY A NOVA EXPLOSION TEN YEARS AGO NOW.

THIS IS A PICTURE OF IT AT THE TIME...

A STAR PROBABLY EXPLODED WITH A FORCE SEVERAL TENS OF MILLIONS TIMES THAT OF A HYDROGEN BOMB.

AND HERE, THIS A PICTURE FIVE YEARS LATER.

WITH FRIGHTENING MOMENTUM OVER A PERIOD OF FIVE YEARS, GAS BEGAN SPREADING.

BUT AFTER THAT THE SMALL STARS SURROUNDING THE GAS BEGAN DISAP-PEARING.

AND NOW, THIS MANY STARS HAVE BECOME OBSCURED.

WHAT DOES THIS ALL MEAN? YOU UNDER-STAND, DO YOU NOT?

IN OTHER WORDS, YOU SEE, BEFORE THIS, A BRIGHTLY SHINING GAS CLOUD HAD BEEN SPREADING...

BUT RECENTLY A DARK GAS CLOUD WHICH DOES NOT REFLECT LIGHT HAS BEGUN TO SPREAD. DON'T YOU UNDER-STAND?

I GOT IT, SO HURRY UP AND LET ME DOWN!

WHAT HAS ALL OF THAT GOT TO DO WITH ME?!

ACCORDING TO MY CALCU-LATIONS, THE GAS IS SPREADING AT A SPEED OF 15 LIGHT YEARS PER YEAR.

THEREFORE, IN ABOUT TWO YEARS, THIS DARK GAS WILL ENTER OUR SOLAR SYSTEM...

AND THEN... THE EARTH...

URK!

HUMANITY ALONG WITH ALL OTHER LIVING THINGS WILL PROBABLY SUFFOCATE AND DIE...

NO ONE IS AWARE OF ANY OF THIS YET. HOWEVER, THEY SOON WILL BE.

R-R-REALLY?

OH! IF THAT WERE TRULY TO HAPPEN...!

WHAT ON EARTH CAN WE DO TO SAVE THEM?!

QUITE SO. THERE LIES THE PROBLEM...

WHY HAVE THESE ***FUMOON*** YOU MENTION ONLY RECENTLY MADE THEIR SUDDEN APPEARANCE BEFORE HUMANITY, *HM?*

=HMPH!= I HAVE A FEELING I UNDERSTAND WHY THE FUMOON HAVE RECENTLY BECOME ACTIVE.

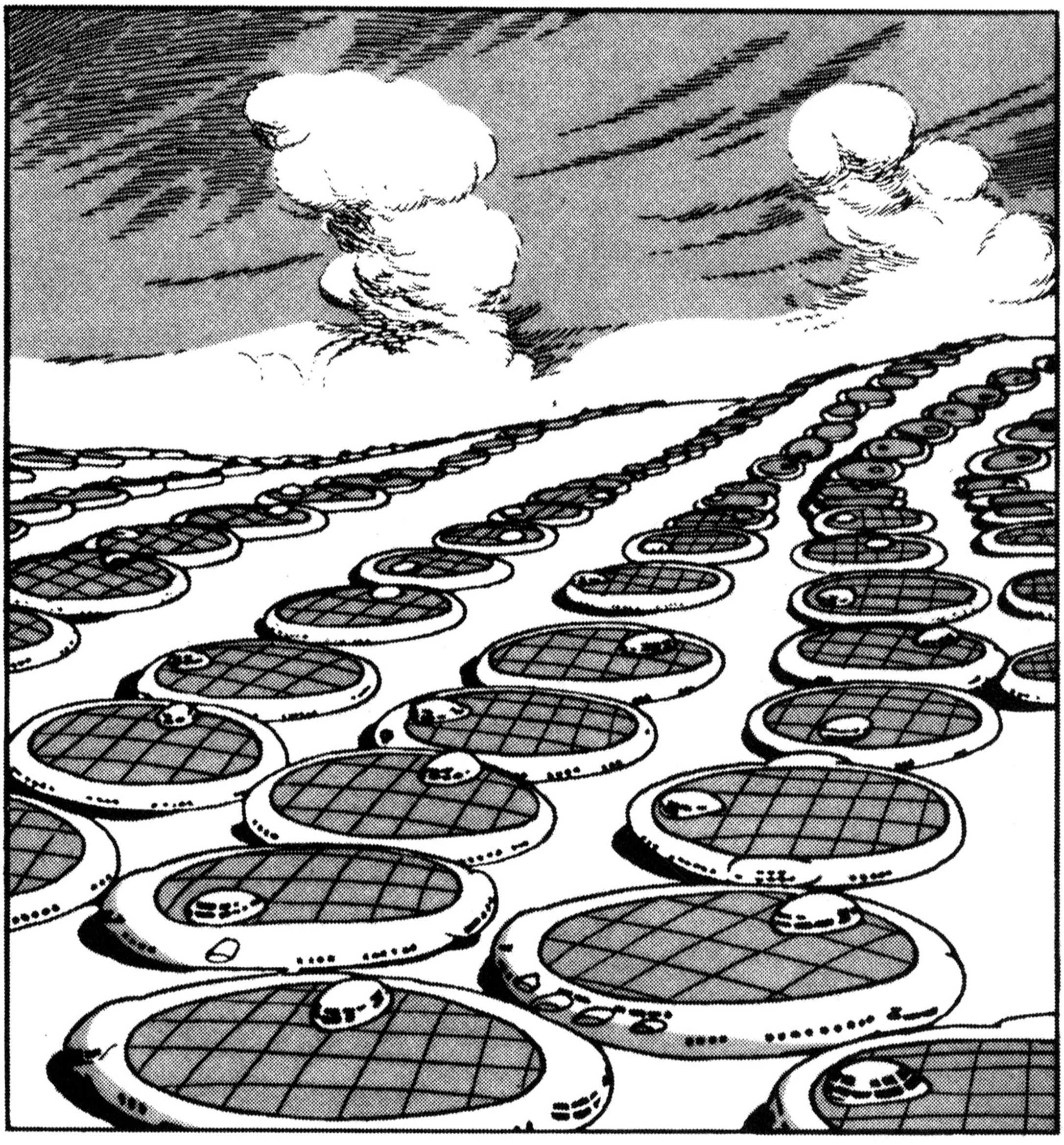
NOW I SEE!! THE FUMOON HAVE PROBABLY ALREADY BECOME AWARE OF THIS GREAT THREAT FROM SPACE. THEY KNOW THAT A CRISIS FOR THE EARTH IS DRAWING NEAR. THEREFORE, UNABLE TO STAND BY AND DO NOTHING, THEY HAVE MADE THEIR EXISTENCE KNOWN TO MANKIND!

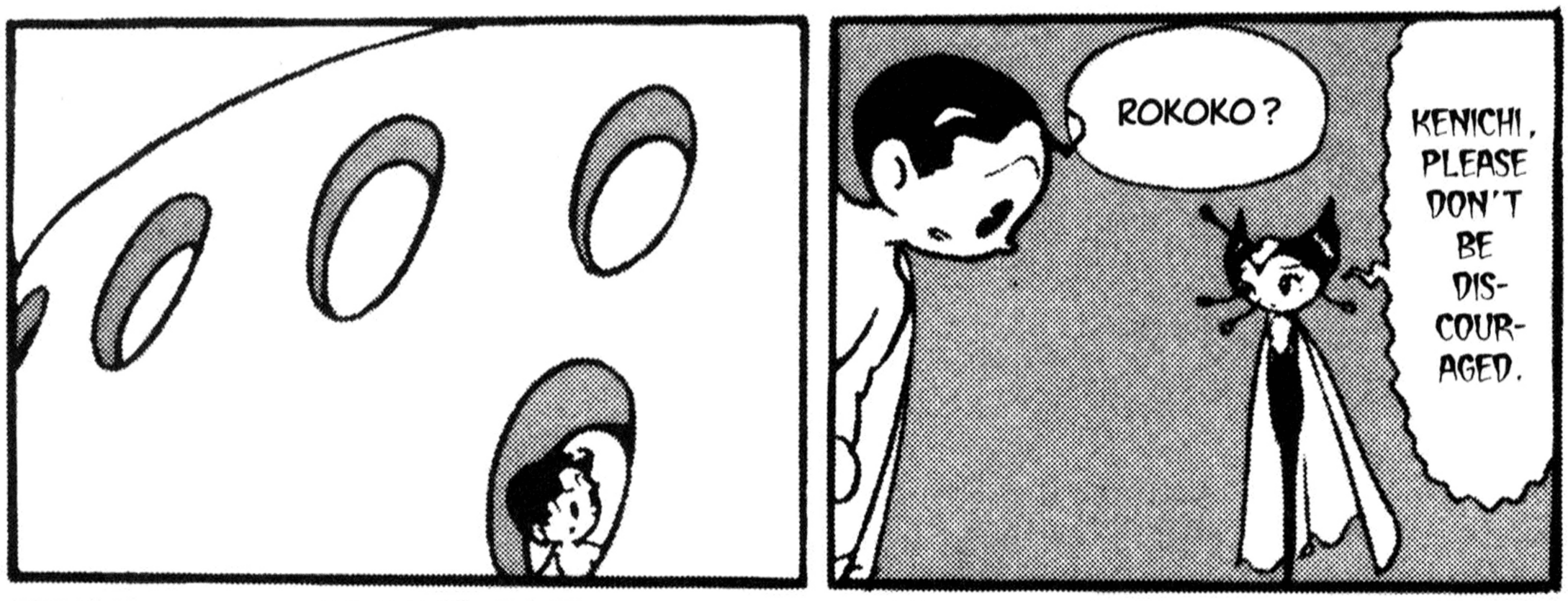
HMMM... YOU'RE ABSOLUTELY RIGHT! THAT'S WHAT I WANTED TO HEAR FROM YOU!

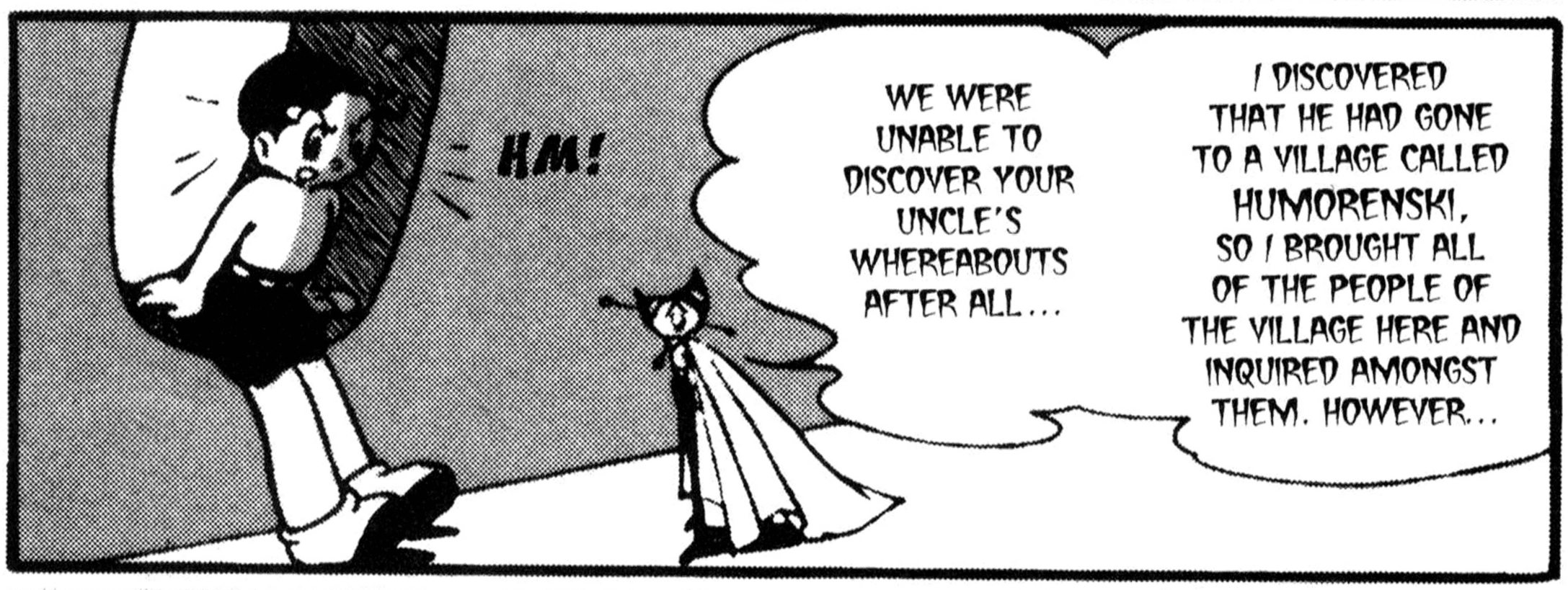
DOCTOR, LET US JOIN HANDS IN ORDER TO SAVE HUMANITY!! AND SO, IN MUTUAL COLLABORATION, I WOULD LIKE US TO THINK OF A WAY TO SAVE THE EARTH FROM THIS CRISIS.
OH! Y-YES, EXACTLY SO! MR. FRANKENSTEIN, I AM SO GLAD TO HAVE MET A PERSON LIKE YOU...

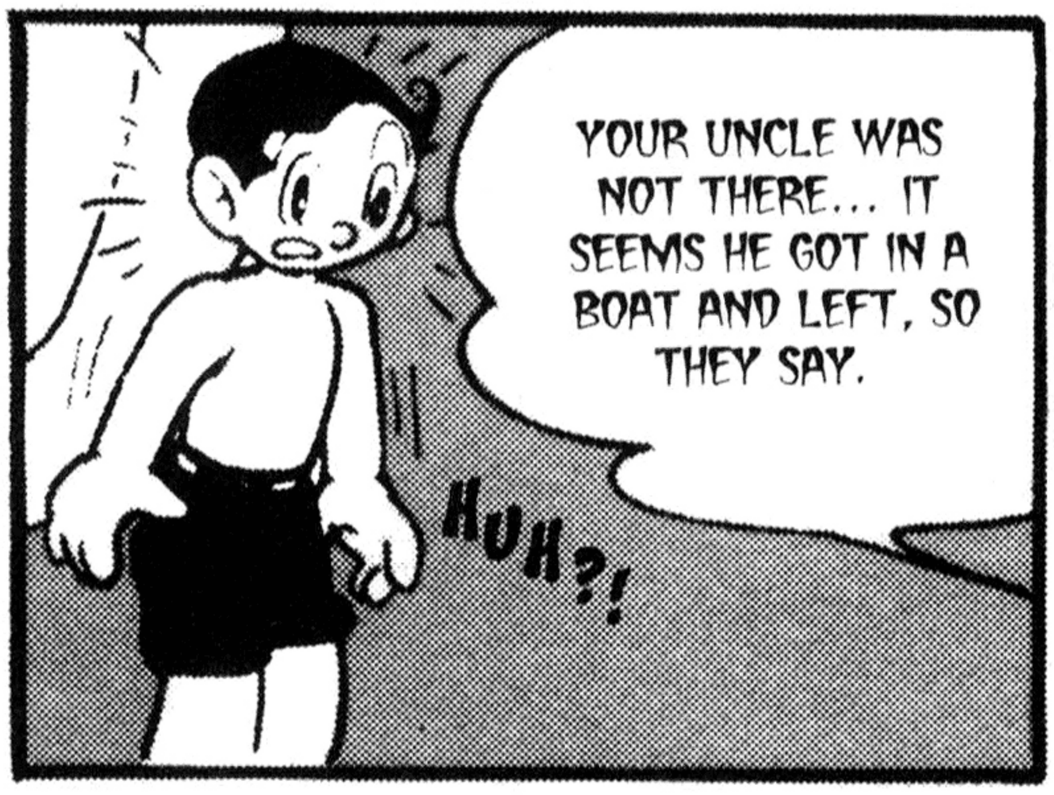
A MOBILIZATION ORDER IS GIVEN IN THE SAHARA DESERT.

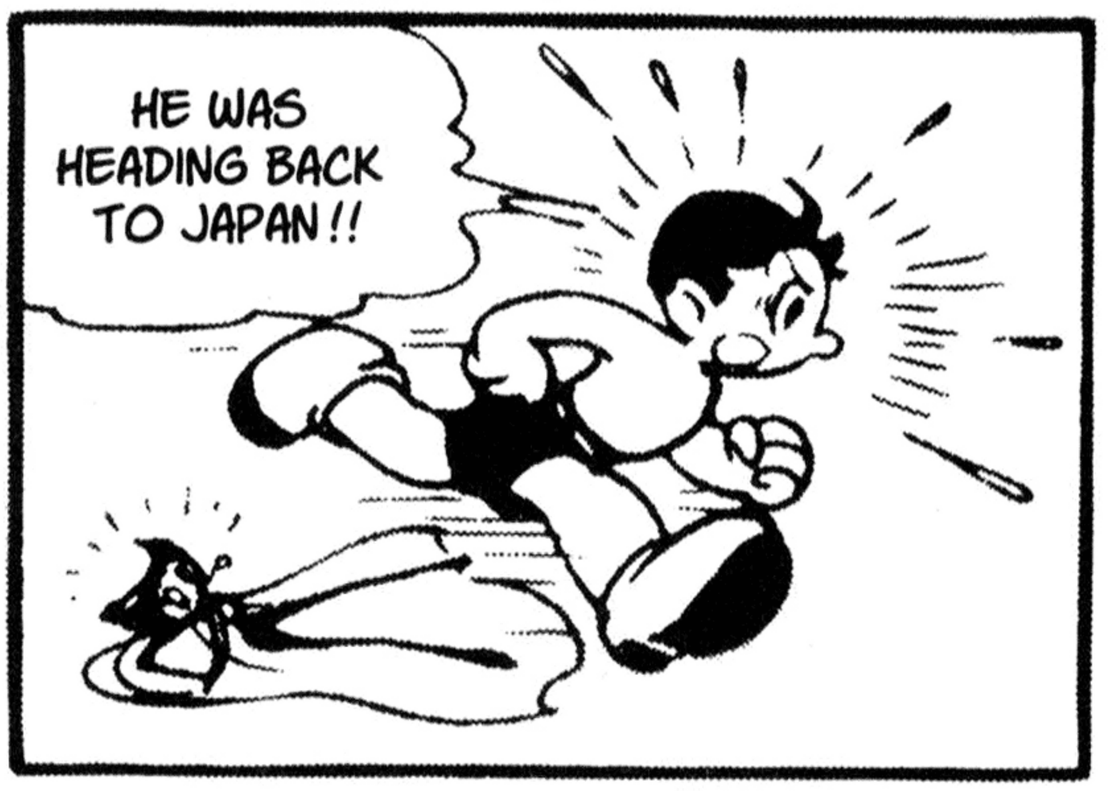
FINAL TIDINGS FOR KENICHI

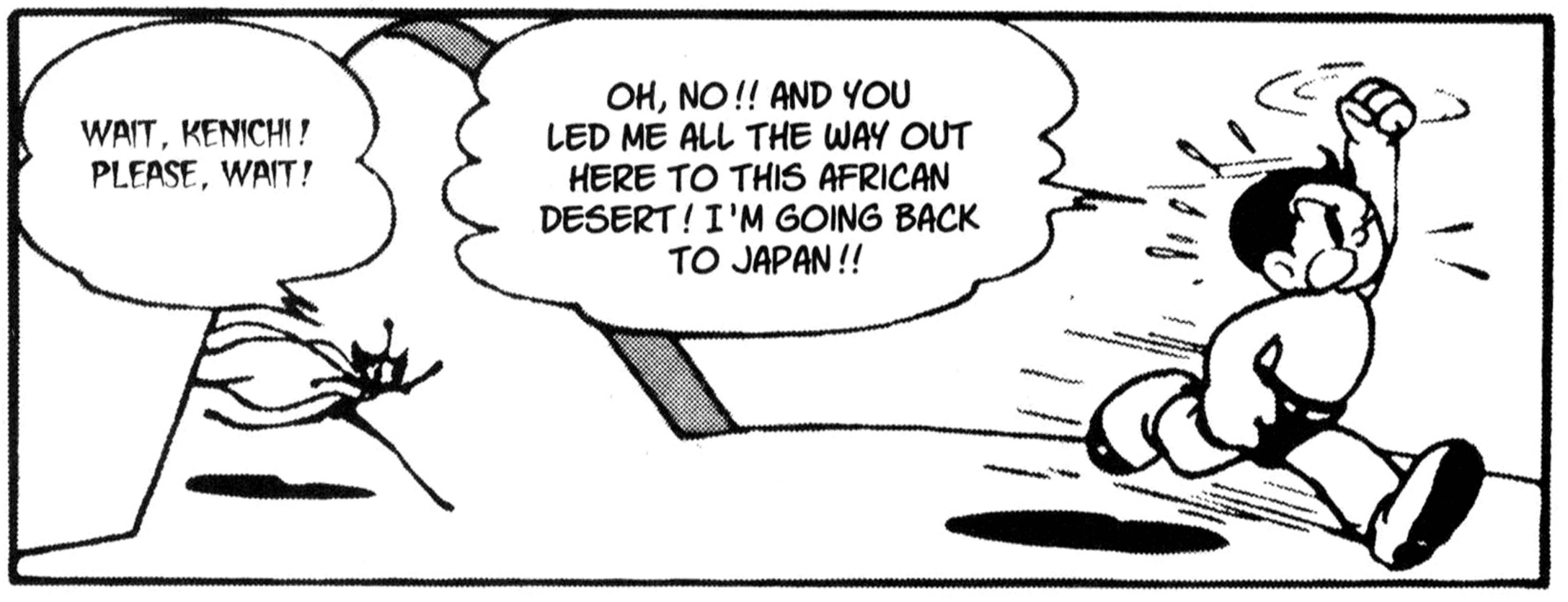



ROKOKO?
KENICHI, PLEASE DON'T BE DIS-COUR-AGED.


HM!
WE WERE UNABLE TO DISCOVER YOUR UNCLE'S WHEREABOUTS AFTER ALL...
I DISCOVERED THAT HE HAD GONE TO A VILLAGE CALLED HUMORENSKI, SO I BROUGHT ALL OF THE PEOPLE OF THE VILLAGE HERE AND INQUIRED AMONGST THEM. HOWEVER...


YOUR UNCLE WAS NOT THERE... IT SEEMS HE GOT IN A BOAT AND LEFT, SO THEY SAY.
HUH?!


HE WAS HEADING BACK TO JAPAN!!


WAIT, KENICHI! PLEASE, WAIT!
OH, NO!! AND YOU LED ME ALL THE WAY OUT HERE TO THIS AFRICAN DESERT! I'M GOING BACK TO JAPAN!!

YOU CANNOT!!

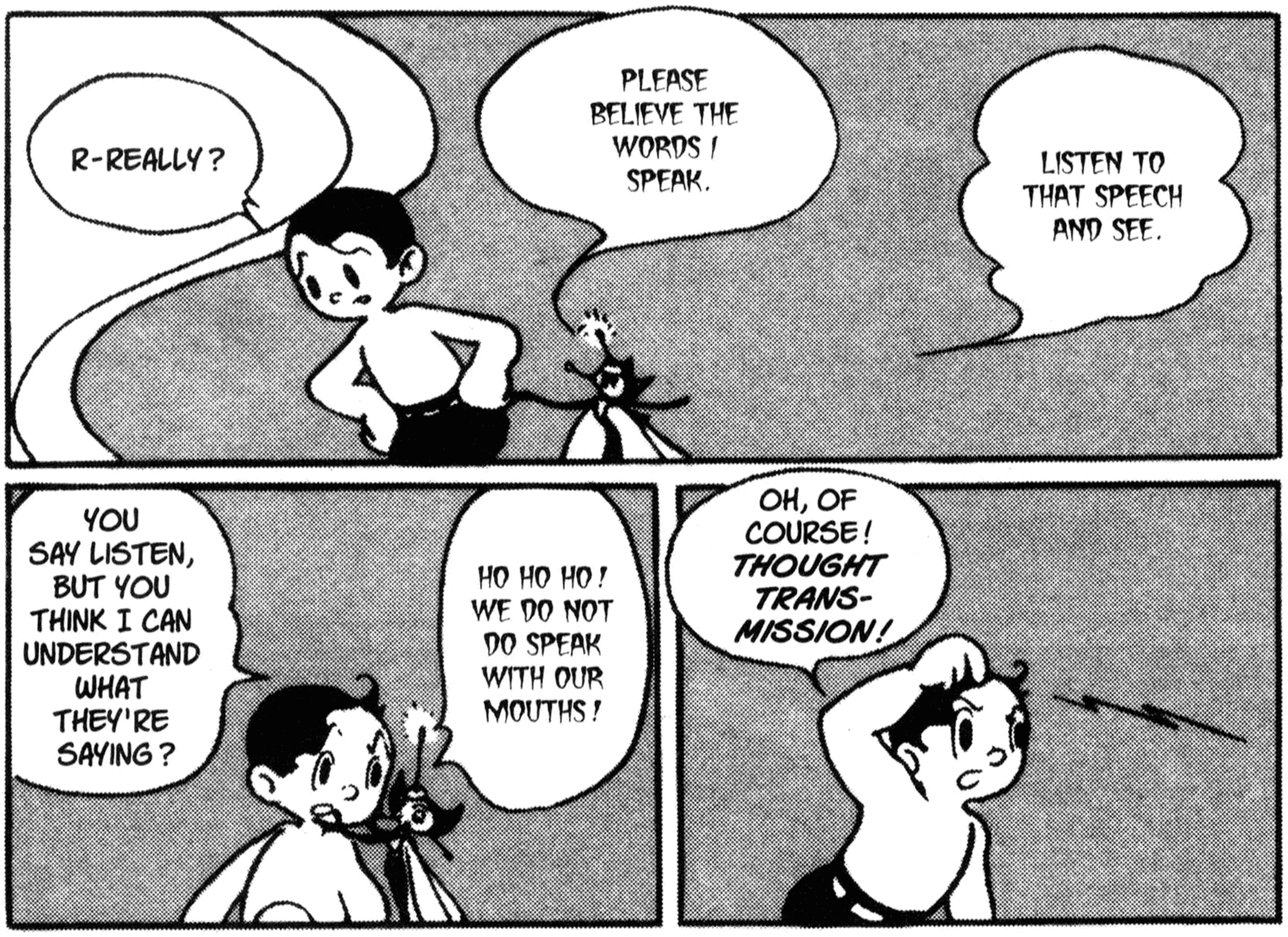
=GRRRRR!= ROKOKO, YOU FOOL!!

YOU CANNOT GO!! I HAVE SOMETHING I WISH TO SHOW YOU.

KENICHI, YOU PROBABLY DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THIS, BUT... THIS IS SPACE GAS.

THAT BLACK SMOKE?!

LOOK CAREFULLY. 444 DAYS FROM NOW, THIS GAS WILL COMPLETELY ENGULF THE EARTH!


R-REALLY?
PLEASE BELIEVE THE WORDS I SPEAK.
LISTEN TO THAT SPEECH AND SEE.
YOU SAY LISTEN, BUT YOU THINK I CAN UNDERSTAND WHAT THEY'RE SAYING?
HO HO HO! WE DO NOT DO SPEAK WITH OUR MOUTHS!
OH, OF COURSE! THOUGHT TRANS-MISSION!
AND FOR THIS REASON ALL ACTIVITIES MUST BE COMPLETED WITHIN 444 DAYS FROM NOW!
ANIMAL DIVISION--GATHER 50,000 SPECIES OF ANIMALS FROM AROUND THE WORLD. PLANT DIVISION WILL COLLECT 30,000 SPECIES OF PLANTS AND TREES. HUMAN DIVISION WILL BRING HERE ONLY THE 500 MOST WELL-BEHAVED HUMANS...

FUMOON!

WHAT IS IT, GALURO?

AS FAR AS HUMANS GO, WE'VE ALREADY COLLECTED ABOUT 200 GOOD ONES... THOSE ONES WE BROUGHT HERE FROM HUMORENSKI. WE ARE HAVING NO PROBLEMS AND THEY HOLD US IN HIGH REGARD... BELIEVE THAT HUMAN-DIVISION CHIEF ROKOKO WILL MAKE A REPORT REGARDING THIS MATTER.

FINE. THE REMAINING 300 PERSONS ARE BEING SEARCHED FOR BY THE HUNTING PARTY WE SENT TO THE NATION OF STAR.

THEN WE WILL TENTATIVELY ASSEMBLE THOSE ON THE EARTH AND THOSE ON OTHER PLANETS HERE IN OUR BASE OF OPERATIONS BEFORE THE EARTH'S FINAL DAY... UNDERSTOOD?

WHEN THE GAS HITS WE WILL LOAD THEM INTO THE SAUCERS AND SAY FAREWELL TO THE EARTH...

UNDER-STAND? THAT IS OUR PURPOSE.

THE EARTH'S FINAL... THE EARTH'S *FINAL* DAY... THE EARTH'S... *FINAL... AAAH!!*

OH, NO!!

THREE HEADS ARE BETTER THAN ONE

HEY EVERYONE, LISTEN UP!
ROKOKO SAID SUCH AND SUCH AND SO FORTH JUST NOW.
WAAA-HA! WHAT'LL HAPPEN TO US?!
THE END OF THE EARTH? WHO'D BELIEVE SUCH A THING?
EVERYONE, WE HAVE TO THINK ABOUT THIS SERIOUSLY!
THIS IS A TERRIBLE THING!!
RIGHT. EVERYONE, GO BACK TO YOUR OWN COUNTRIES AND INFORM THEM OF THIS. NOBODY KNOWS ANYTHING ABOUT THIS YET!
GO BACK?! HOW ARE WE SUPPOSED TO DO THAT?!
THERE'S NO TWO WAYS ABOUT IT...
WE'VE GOT TO WRING OUT SOME FUMOON, ROB A SAUCER, AND USE IT TO GET BACK HOME.

THREE HEADS ARE BETTER THAN, *UH*, SOMETHING. IF WE DO IT RIGHT WE MAY EVEN BE ABLE TO CAPTURE *ALL* OF THE SAUCERS!

THAT'S "TWO HEADS ARE BETTER THAN ONE."

OH, HOW LOVELY! ... OKAY, PLEASE GET ONE FOR ME TOO!

LET'S DO IT TONIGHT!

HOW ABOUT THIS? KENICHI DISTRACTS ROKOKO. POPONYA LEARNS HOW TO OPERATE THE SAUCERS FROM THE FUMOON. ROCK AND I WILL TAKE OUT THE GUARDS!

COCOA, NOBODY'S LISTENING, ARE THEY? PLEASE CHECK OUTSIDE FOR US.

OH, WOW!! THEY'VE BROUGHT LOTS OF ANIMALS HERE!!

IT LOOKS LIKE THEY'VE TAKEN THEM FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD.

HONK HONK
KREE KREE
YOWEE! ELDER... HOW ABOUT THIS? PRETTY LUXURIOUS, YEAH!
THIS MUST BE HEAVEN INDEED! WHERE ON THE EARTH WOULD YOU SEE SO MANY BEASTS IN ONE PLACE?!
HRRR
OINK
MMMM
ROAR
BAH
MEOW MEOW

A ZOO IN THE DESERT

HEY! THERE'S *HUMANS* OVER THERE TOO! LOOK! RIGHT THERE!

HUH?! WHERE? WHERE?

FUMOO FUMOO

SHH! A FUMOON'S COMING!

FOOM

SAY, HE LOOKS DRUNK!

EWW, HOW CREEPY! A DRUNK FUMOON!

MUU.. FUUMOO

=PFFT!= I GUESS THE FUMOON DRINK ALCOHOL SOMETIMES TOO!

HE'S LEERING AT COCOA'S FACE!!

EEEEK!!!

Y-YOU DRUNK SON OF A--!! YOU THINK YOU CAN MAKE TOYS OF US?!

HUMANS ARE SCARY WHEN THEY'RE ANGRY!!

BZZZ BZZZ

F-F-F-FUMOON!
MOO!!

MY, THIS ROOM IS HUMID. YOU SHOULD STEP OUTSIDE. IT'S NOT GOOD FOR YOU IF YOU DO NOT GET SOME FRESH AIR.

I'M AM SORRY FOR THE DISTRUBANCE. HE IS MY SUBORDINATE, AND HE STOLE SOME ALCOHOL FROM SOME HUMANS AND DRANK IT.

ONE OF THE HUMANS WHO CAME FROM HUMORENSKI BROUGHT ALCOHOL WITH HIM.

WE *KNEW* IT! ARE THERE OTHER HUMANS HERE BESIDES US?

NOW, KENICHI. PLEASE COME SEE OUR WORK AND OTHER THINGS. IT IS NOT GREATLY INTERESTING, BUT IT WILL PASS THE TIME.

W-WAIT A MO-MENT...

UM, ROKOKO, COULD YOU GIVE ME SOME WORK TO DO?

HM? YOU WANT TO WORK?

WELL DONE! POPONYA WILL GET THE FUMOON TO TELL HER HOW TO OPERATE THE SAUCER STEERING CONTROLS!

PEOPLE!! I KNOW THE FUMOON'S WEAKNESS!!

WHAT?! SO, YOU HAD THAT FIGHT BEFORE TO FIGURE IT OUT, *HUH?*

THAT'S RIGHT! SURE ENOUGH, IT'S JUST AS I THOUGHT. THEIR WEAKNESS IS THAT HORN!

THEY CAN MANIPULATE GRAVITY AND USE ELECTRIC RAYS, BUT ACTUALLY IF YOU JUST YANK THAT HORN A LITTLE BIT, THEY'RE UNEXPECTEDLY EASY TO BEAT.

THERE IS BUT A SINGLE WAY

THIS IS YOUR JOB! YOU WILL REGULATE GRAVITY, ALL RIGHT?

HUH?! I GET TO MANIPULATE GRAVITY! OH, HOW LOVELY!

HO HO HO! SHE SEEMS TO HAVE TAKEN TO IT! NOW, KENICHI, LET'S GO.

DOING SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH IS LIKE BEING IN A DREAM FOR HER.

SHE SEEMS LIKE A USEFUL HUMAN.

SO, WHAT ABOUT ROCK AND COCOA?

AH, I HAVE NO USE FOR THEM, SO I'LL JUST GET RID OF THEM.

THOSE CREATURES GETTING ON SAUCER NO. 2628, FOLLOW ME THIS WAY!

I'M SORRY TO DO THIS BUT IT WOULDN'T DO TO LET YOU ONBOARD AS YOU WERE, YOU SEE...

THIS IS AN ODOR-KILLER.

ATCHOO!

AAH! WHEN WE BROUGHT THEM HERE, THERE WERE ONLY TWO...

...BUT NOW LOOK HOW THEY'VE MULTI-PLIED!

IT HAS BEEN DECIDED THAT WE WILL SELECT THE BEST FROM AMONG THESE ANIMALS, AND ONLY 50,000 SPECIES WILL BE ALLOWED TO COME ALONG IN THE SAUCERS.

BECAUSE WE'LL HAVE PROBLEMS IF YOU SPREAD OUT IN THE SAUCER...

BIG TROUBLE! THE PENGUINS AND POLAR BEARS HAVE ALL COLLAPSED FROM THE HEAT!

YOU LOT WILL BE RIDING IN THE SAME SAUCER TOGETHER, SO THERE'LL BE NO BITING. UNDERSTAND?

WE HAVE TO CUT THOSE ANTLERS OFF OR THEY WON'T BE ABLE TO GET ON.

PLEASE, SPARE US THOSE AT LEAST... WE GREW THEM JUST FOR OUR WEDDING ANNIVERSARY.

ALL THAT'S LEFT ARE THE WHALES BUT SOMEHOW I THINK WE WON'T BE ABLE TO BRING THEM BACK HERE.

ONE TWO THREE FOUR FOOF!

WHAT IS THIS? I DON'T REMEMBER BRINGING ANYTHING LIKE THIS HERE!

IT FOLLOWED US HERE ON ITS OWN. IT'S AN ANIMAL CALLED HYOUTAN-TSUGI AND...

FOR THE ONES WITH LARGE BODIES, WE GIVE THEM THIS AND THE MEDICINAL POWER MAKES THEM A MORE MANAGEABLE WEIGHT.

MUUF!

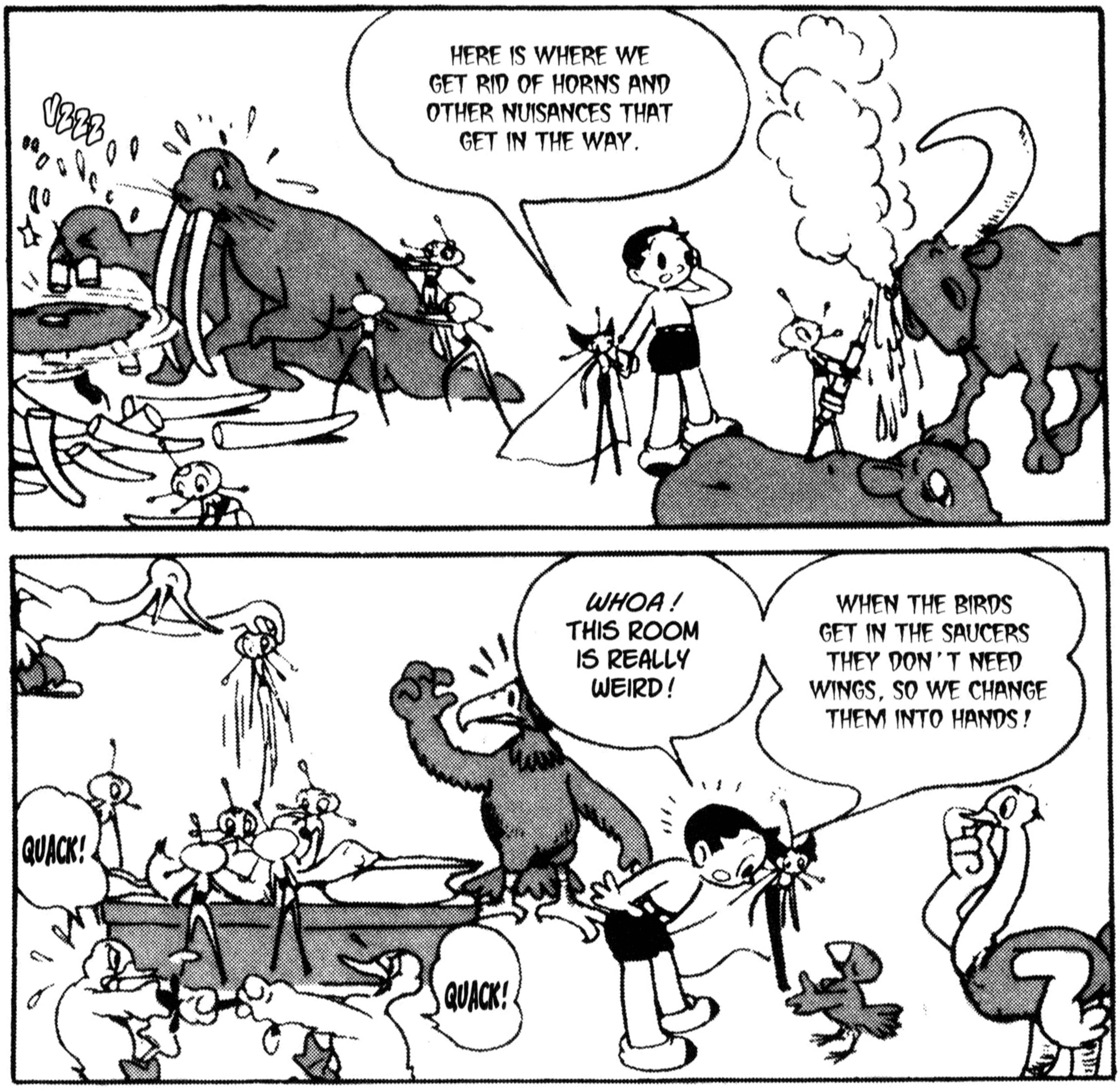
?

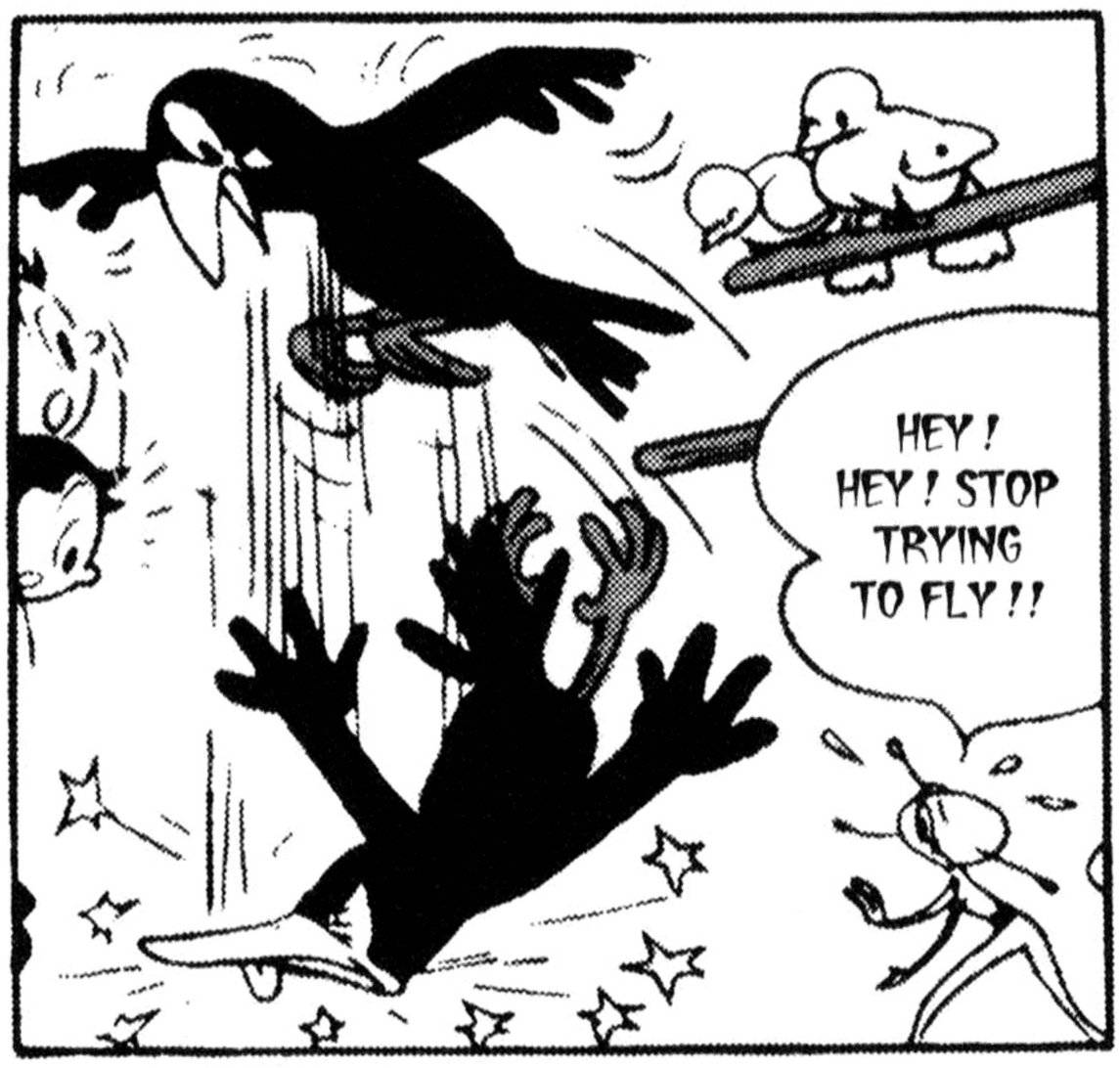
THOSE ARE GIRAFFES.

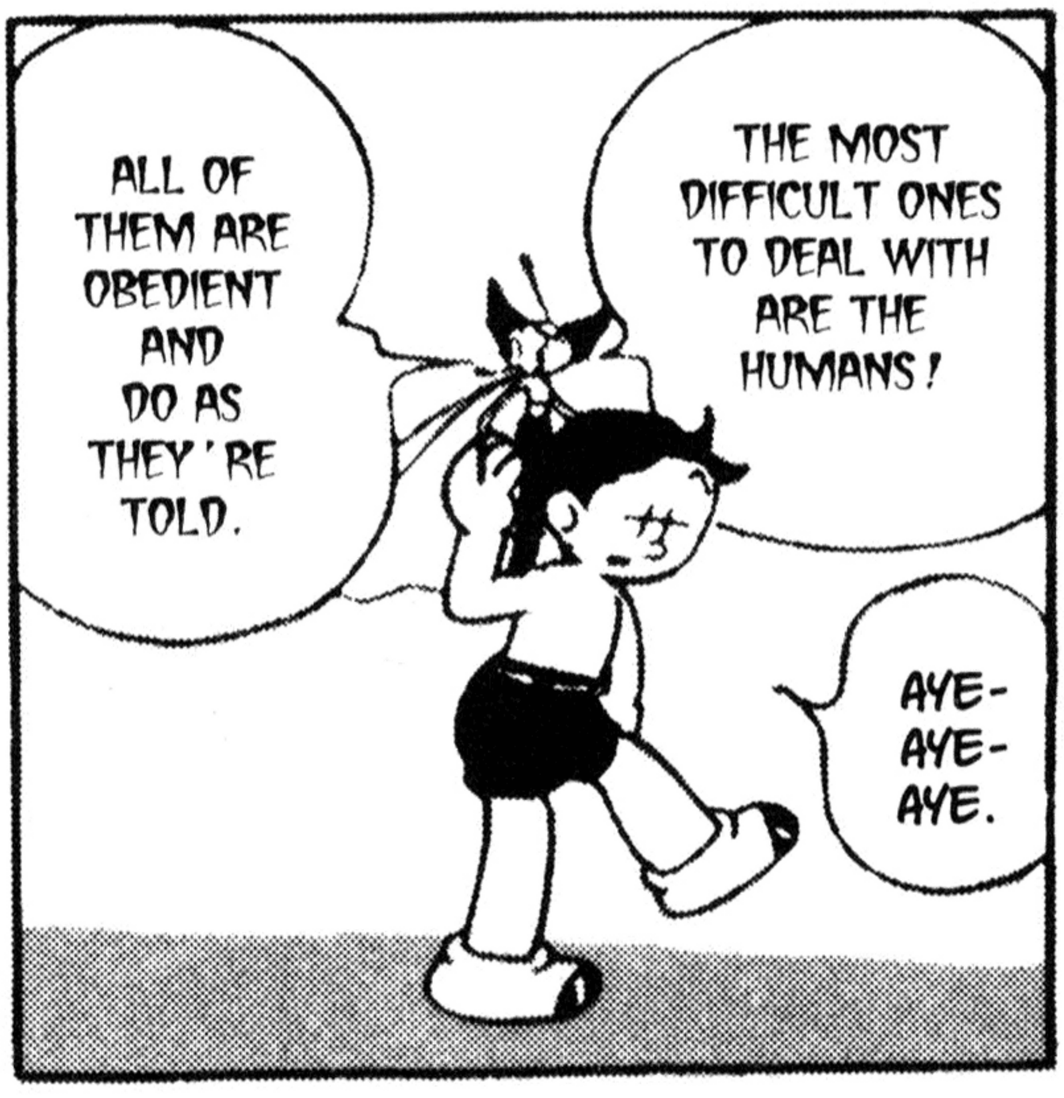
HEY, LOOK! THOSE ELEPHANTS FROM BEFORE ARE BACK.

IF WE DIDN'T DO THIS THEN THE SAUCERS WOULD SOON BE AT FULL CAPACITY.

JEEPERS CREEPERS!


VZZZZ
HERE IS WHERE WE GET RID OF HORNS AND OTHER NUISANCES THAT GET IN THE WAY.
WHOA! THIS ROOM IS REALLY WEIRD!
WHEN THE BIRDS GET IN THE SAUCERS THEY DON'T NEED WINGS, SO WE CHANGE THEM INTO HANDS!
QUACK!
QUACK!


HEY! HEY! STOP TRYING TO FLY!!


ALL OF THEM ARE OBEDIENT AND DO AS THEY'RE TOLD.
THE MOST DIFFICULT ONES TO DEAL WITH ARE THE HUMANS!
AYE-AYE-AYE.

SINCE I AM THE HUMAN DIVISION CHIEF, I HAVE DONE MUCH RESEARCH ABOUT THESE ANIMALS CALLED HUMANS.

BUT YOU ARE THE MOST HUMAN SPECIMEN OF THEM ALL.

I'M JUST A REGULAR KID! ≠PFFT!≠ A SPECIMEN? HOW ANNOYING!

I LIKE SUCH ORDINARY HUMANS. ONES LIKE IVAN ARE ALMOST LIKE WILD BEASTS!

ROKOKO, I HAVE SOMETHING TO ASK YOU.

WILL YOU GIVE ME ONE OF THE SAUCERS?

THERE IS NO NEED TO WORRY. ONE HAS ALREADY BEEN DULY SET ASIDE FOR YOU AND ME TO USE.

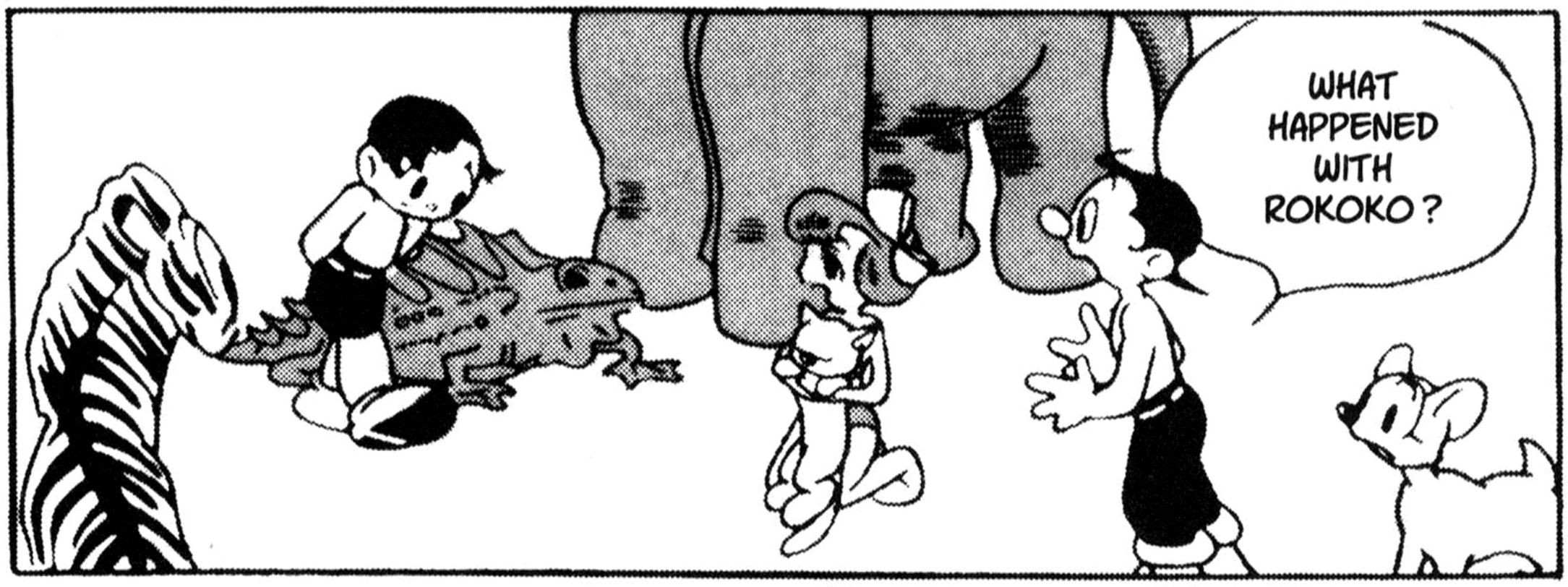
NO, I MEAN, TO SHOW ALL THE PEOPLE OF THE WORLD.

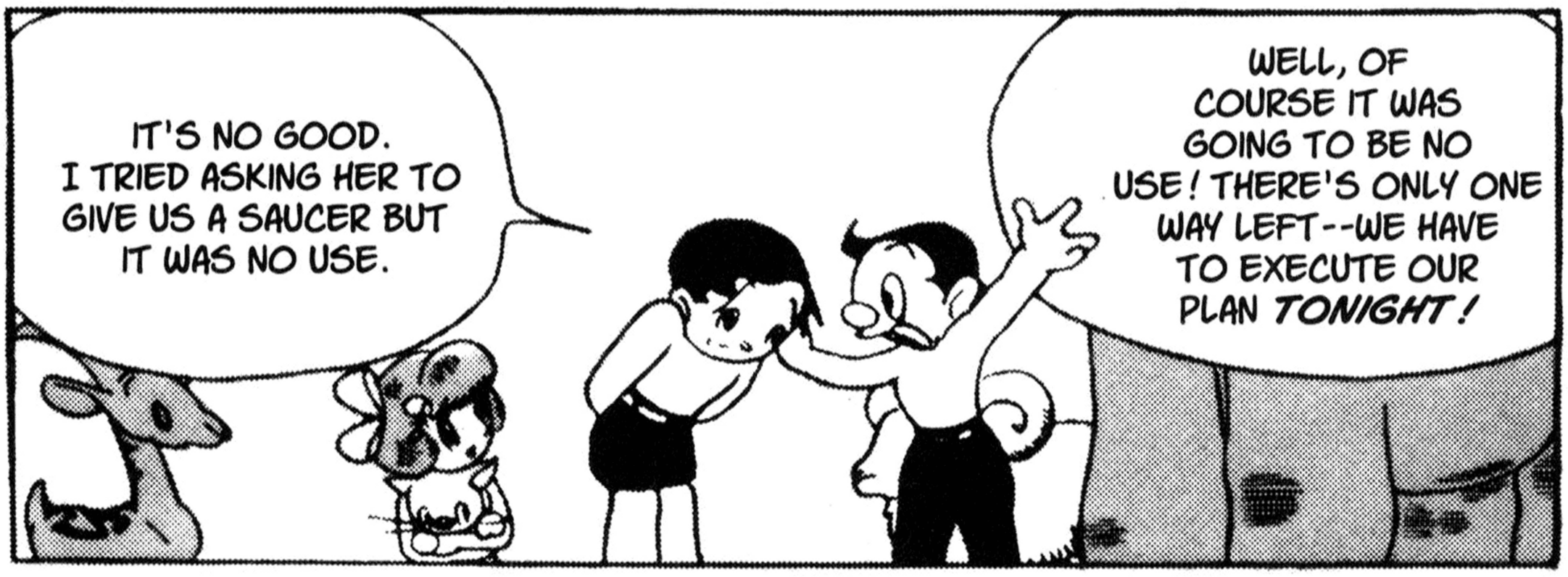
N-N-NO! YOU CANNOT !!

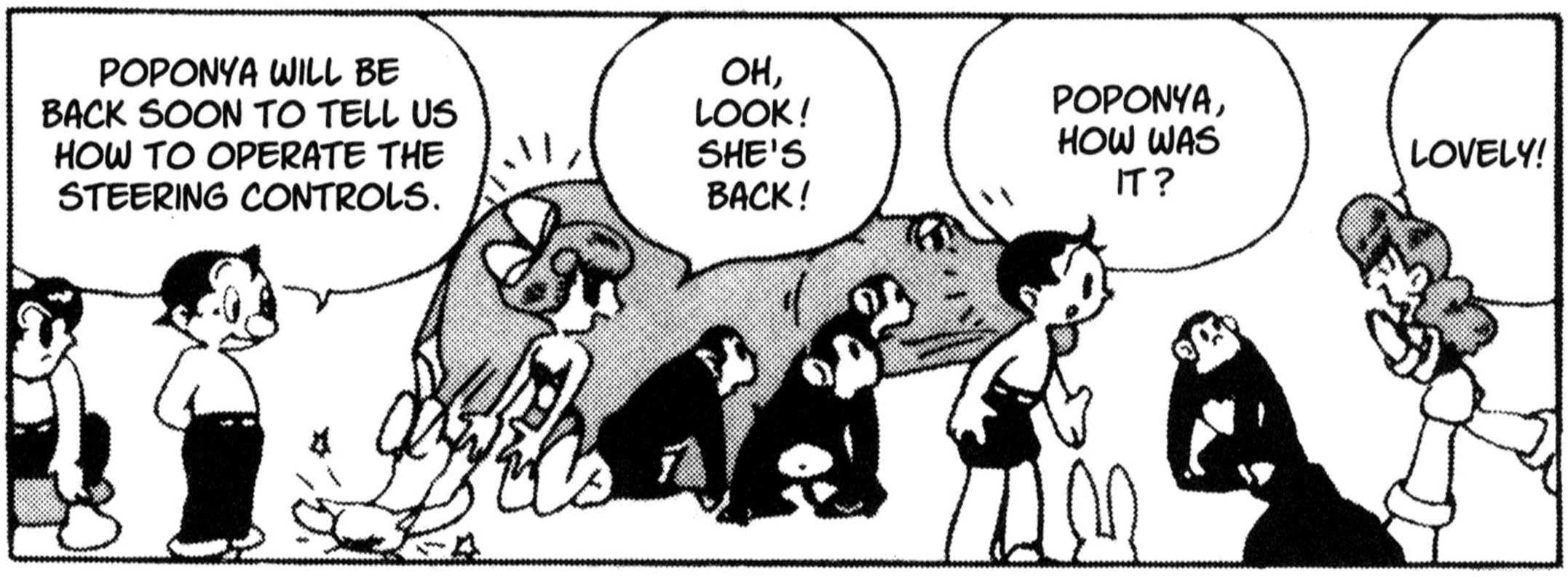
BUT, ROKOKO, I--

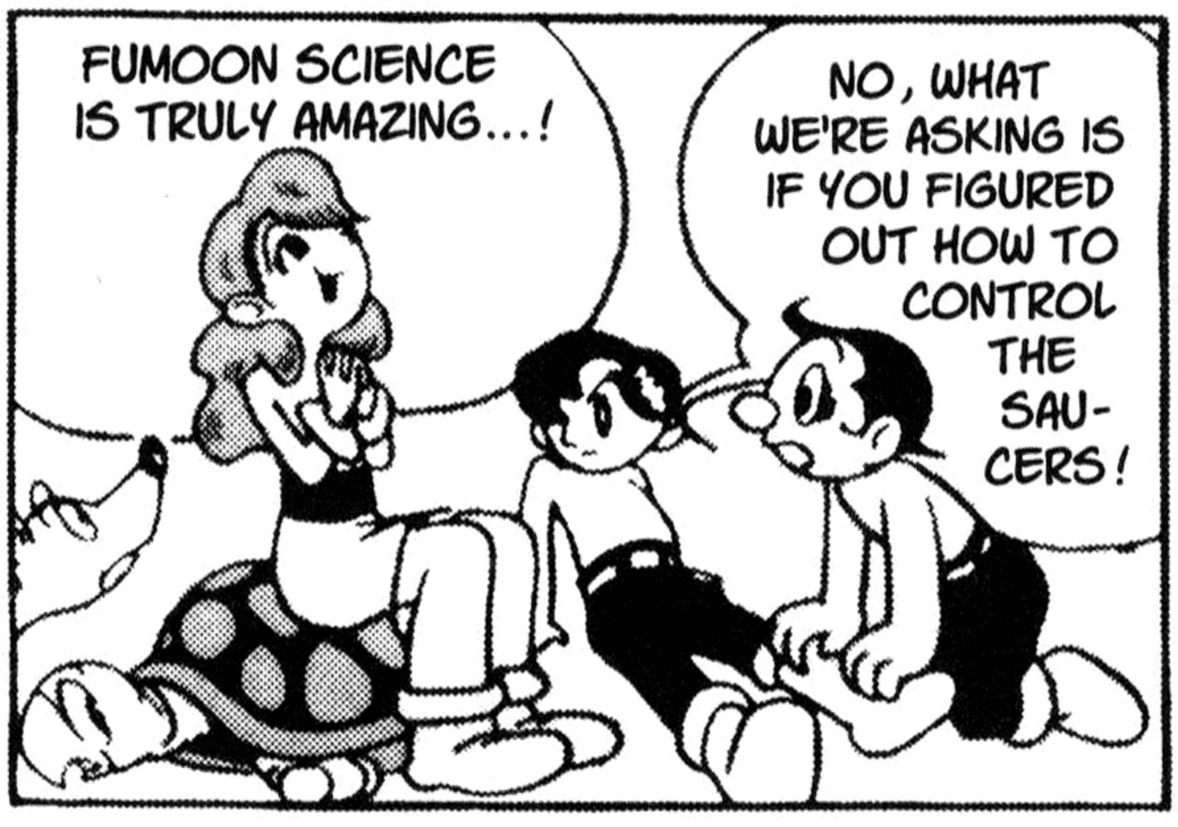
YOU'RE GOING TO LEAVE THE EARTH BEHIND... WHEN I THINK ABOUT ALL OF THE PEOPLE WHO WILL DIE FROM THE GAS... I DON'T WANT TO BE THE ONLY ONE SAVED!

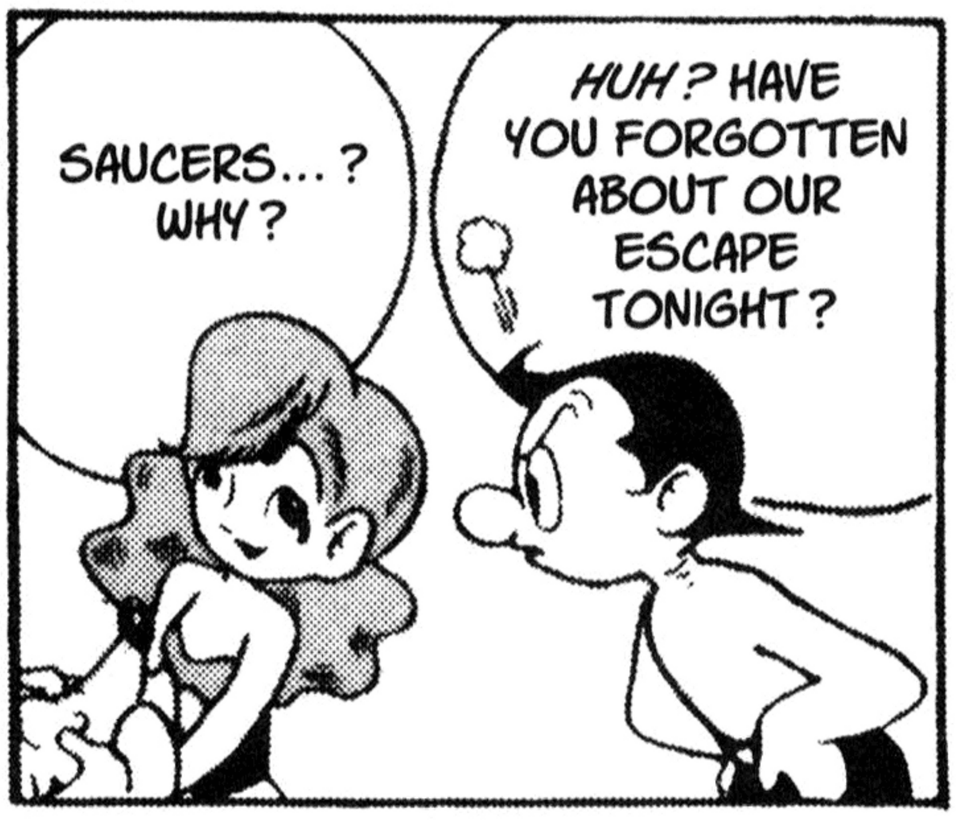
IT CANNOT BE.


WHAT HAPPENED WITH ROKOKO?


IT'S NO GOOD. I TRIED ASKING HER TO GIVE US A SAUCER BUT IT WAS NO USE.
WELL, OF COURSE IT WAS GOING TO BE NO USE! THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY LEFT--WE HAVE TO EXECUTE OUR PLAN *TONIGHT!*


POPONYA WILL BE BACK SOON TO TELL US HOW TO OPERATE THE STEERING CONTROLS.
OH, LOOK! SHE'S BACK!
POPONYA, HOW WAS IT?
LOVELY!


FUMOON SCIENCE IS TRULY AMAZING...!
NO, WHAT WE'RE ASKING IS IF YOU FIGURED OUT HOW TO CONTROL THE SAU-CERS!


SAUCERS...? WHY?
HUH? HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN ABOUT OUR ESCAPE TONIGHT?

I'M NOT LEAVING!

YOU'RE NOT LEAV-ING?!

OH, YOU THINK THEY'D LET YOU ESCAPE?

THE FUMOON WOULD JUST CATCH YOU RIGHT AWAY!

WH-WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?! YOU'RE JUST GOING TO STAY HERE FOREVER?! ARE YOU CRAZY?!

I CAN DO RESEARCH THE WHOLE TIME. I MADE A PROMISE TO ROKOKO!

=GRRR!= DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND THAT JUST MEANS YOU'LL BECOME LIVESTOCK FOR THE FUMOON?!

POPONYA, SO YOU'RE JUST GOING TO CAST US ASIDE--

I DON'T CARE!!

I SEE...

FINE THEN. GO AHEAD.

I'M GOING. RESEARCH IS THE ONLY THING I LIVE FOR.

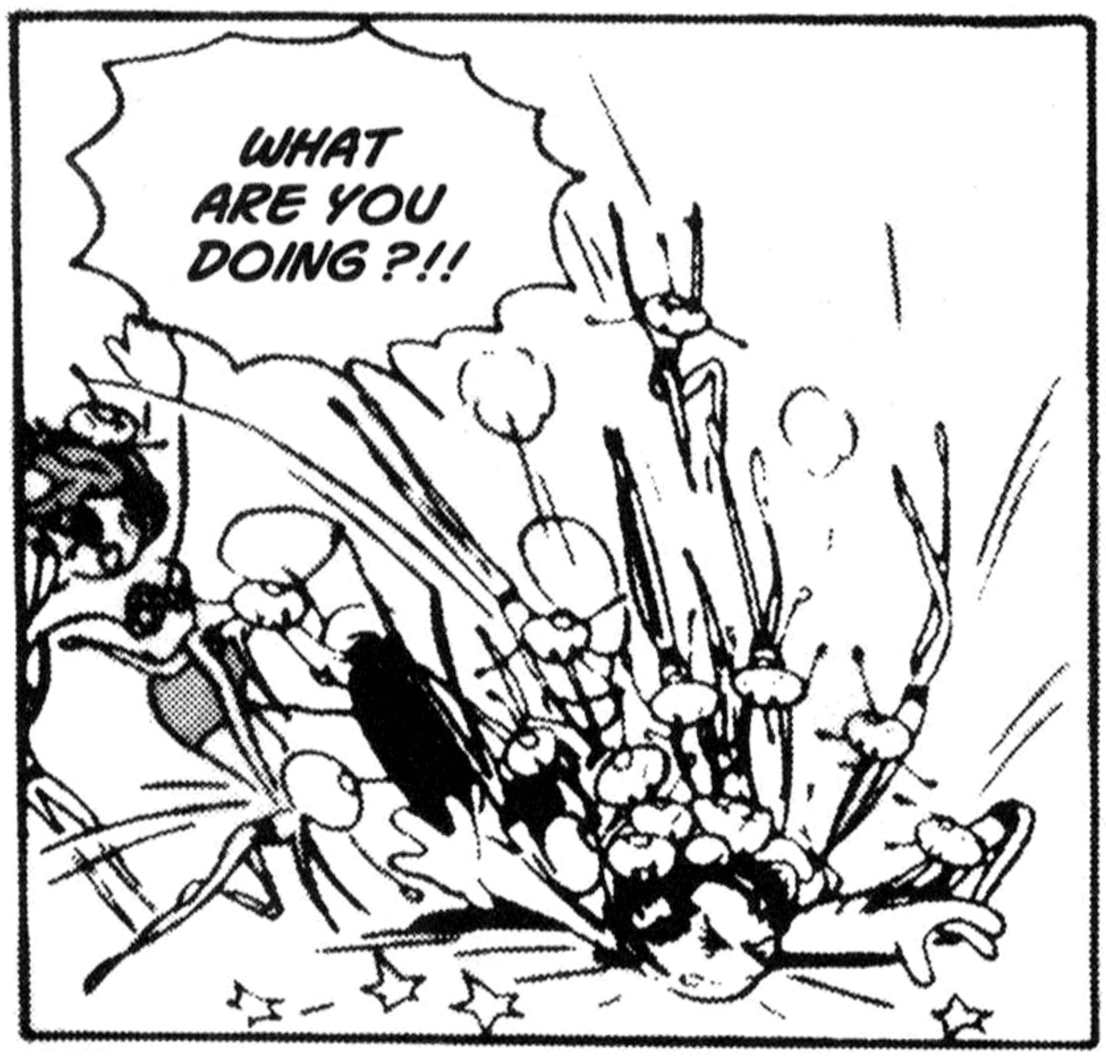
POPONYA, THIS IS WHERE WE PART FOREVER. IF YOU BECOME A SLAVE WORKER FOR THE FUMOON, THEN *FINE!*

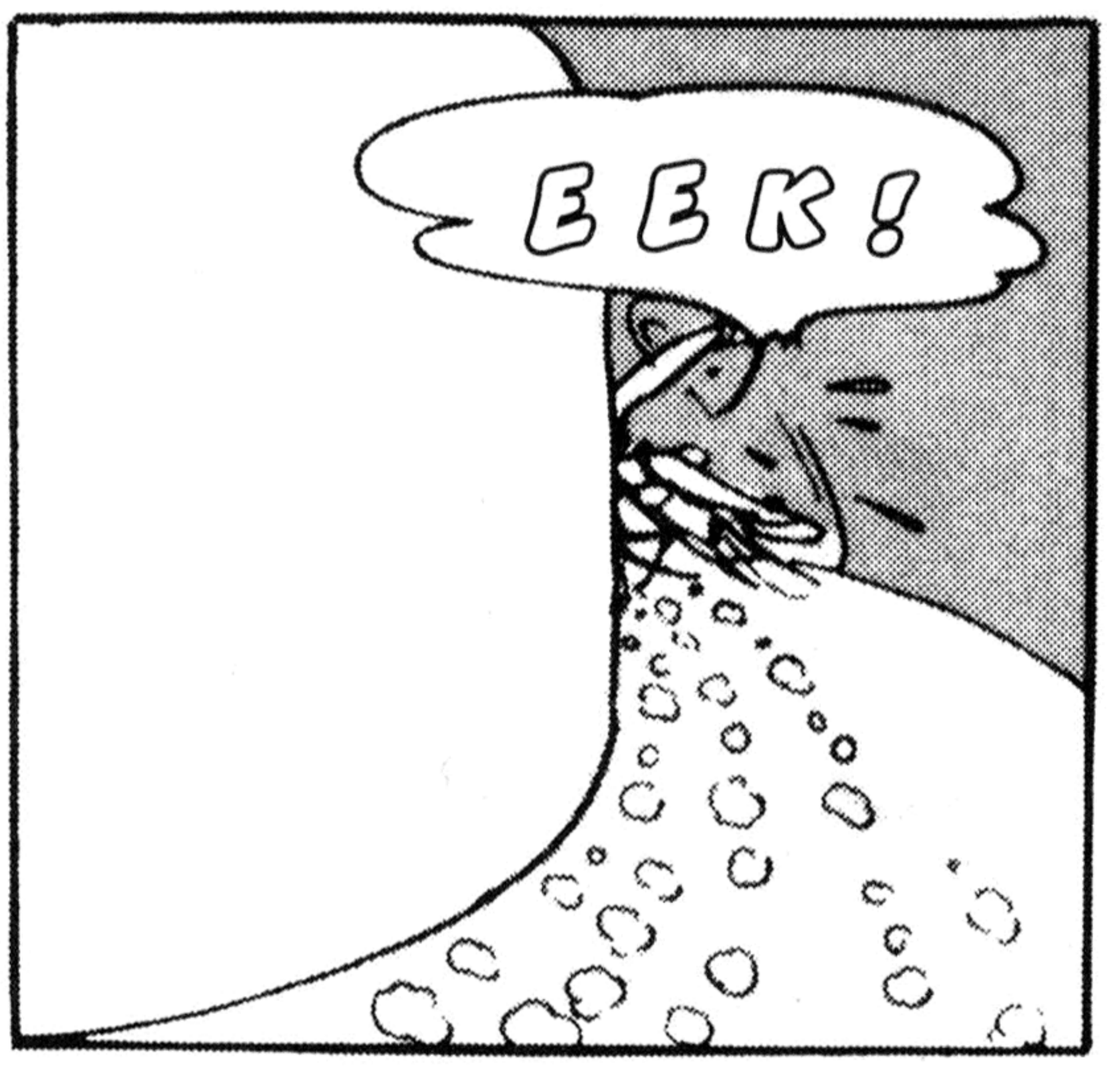
LET HER GO! LET HER GO!

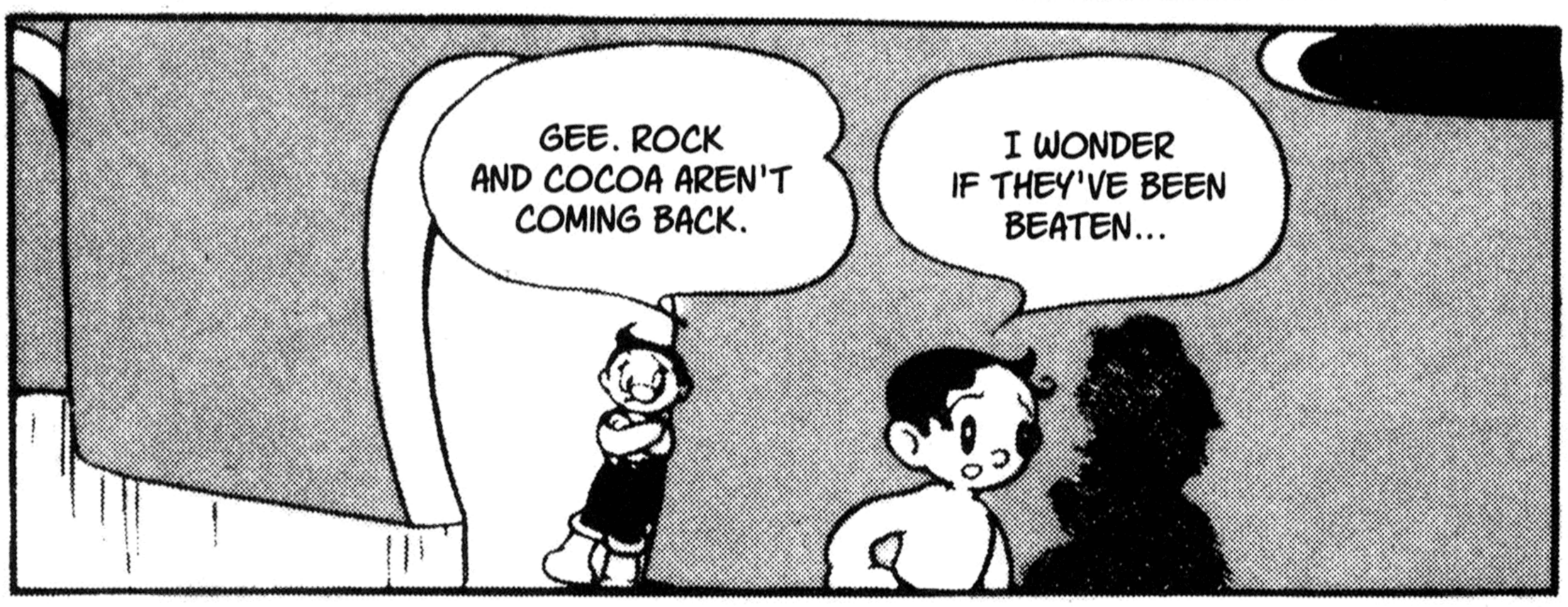
I'LL BEAT HER INTO THE GROUND!!

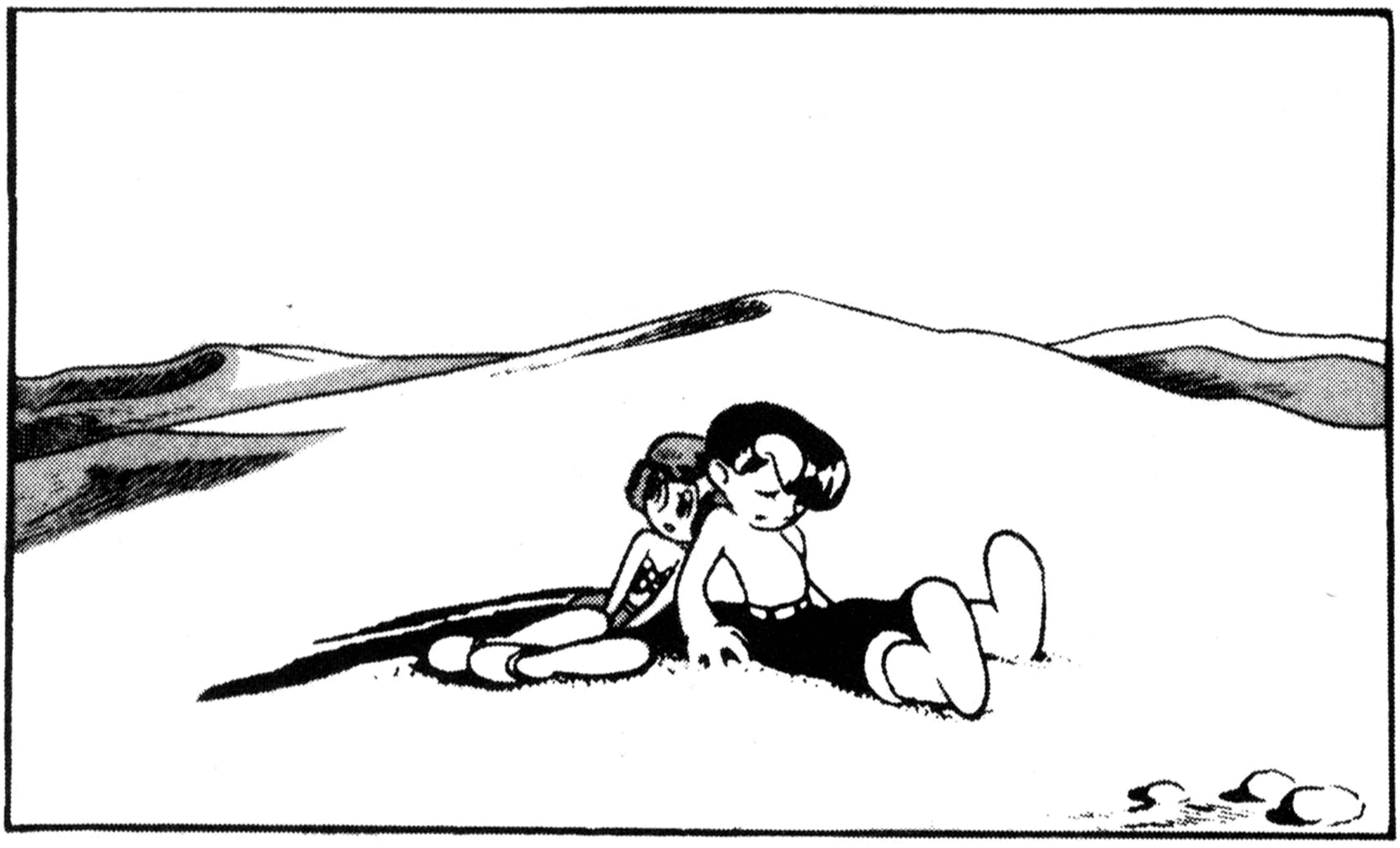
POPONYA! YOU CAN'T JUST LEAVE US! WAIT! *WAIT!!*

≠AHHN!≠ WAIT!! *≠BOO HOO!≠*


WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!!


EEK!


GEE. ROCK AND COCOA AREN'T COMING BACK.
I WONDER IF THEY'VE BEEN BEATEN...



RO-ROCK. WHAT IS THIS PLACE?

IT'S SAND AS FAR AS THE EYE CAN SEE. THE MIDDLE OF THE DESERT... WE'VE BEEN CAST AWAY...

WAH HA HA HA! WE'RE LIKE PATHETIC ORPHANS. WE'VE BEEN ABANDONED!

ROCK... WHAT SHOULD WE... ≒BOO HOO!≒

WE WALK! DAWDLE AND I'LL LEAVE YOU BEHIND!!

EEEK!!

I CAN'T WALK ANYMORE... ≒BOO HOO!≒ I'M SO THIRSTY!

THEN DRINK YOUR TEARS!

I'M JUST CRYING WITH MY VOICE!

IVAN, IN THE END IT'S COME DOWN TO JUST THE TWO OF US, HASN'T IT...

WE'RE GOING TO DO IT, RIGHT?

LET'S DO IT!!

WE'LL MAKE OUR MOVE WHEN THE MOON GOES DOWN, OKAY?

ALL RIGHT!

I'LL FIGURE OUT THE EXITS!

MY HEAD IS SPINNING. WATER... GIVE ME WATER!

HEY! IT'S AN ENGINE!

COCOA! HELP IS HERE!

WHO'S THAT?

HEY! AREN'T THOSE WHITE KIDS?!

WATER, PLEASE. WATER ...

I-I WAS WITH THE FUMOON--

≠AAH!!≠

HO HO! SO YOU ESCAPED HERE FROM THE PLACE OF THE FUMOON, DID YOU? THEN YOU'LL TELL US ITS LOCATION!

WE CAME HERE FROM THE URAN FEDERATION LOOKING FOR THE FUMOON.

=HMPH!= WHO WOULD TELL YOU ANYTHING?

SCIENCE MINISTER, YOU CAME HERE LOOKING FOR YOUR DAUGHTER, DIDN'T YOU?

Y-YOU LITTLE BRAT! YOU'RE TALKING TO THE MINISTER--

POP-ONYA? SHE'S DEAD.

AHAH HA HA!

POPONYA PARTED WITH US JUST BEFORE WE CAME HERE. RIGHT ABOUT NOW SHE'S BECOMING A SLAVE TO THE FUMOON!

YOU! YOU LIE! NOW TELL US THE LOCATION OF THE FUMOON!

NEVER!

NO GRUB UNTIL YOU SPEAK!

SOUTH OF HERE!

MR. MINISTER!

THE MINISTER'S DISAPPEARED.

MINISTER!!

THE MOON IS SETTING.

THE FUMOON ARE GATHERING!

FUMOON

MUMOO

THERE'S SOMETHING STRANGE ABOUT THIS!

ROKOKO! IT APPEARS THAT YOU HAVE BEEN LATELY TREATING THE HUMANS WITH INEXCUSABLE KINDNESS... EXPLAIN YOURSELF!

IVAN'S FINALE

YOU SEEM TO BE GIVING ESPECIAL ATTENTION TO THAT HUMAN CHILD CALLED KENICHI...

ROKOKO, DON'T YOU SEE WE ARE THE GREATEST CREATURES IN THE UNIVERSE?!

OBVIOUSLY THE HUMAN DIVISION CHIEF LOOKS AFTER HUMANS, GALURO.

TH-TH-THAT ISN'T SO!! WITH THIS KENICHI, YOU ARE ESPECIALLY-- THAT IS TO SAY... UH, UH, UH--

"LOVE," CORRECT?

THAT'S IT! "LOVE"! YOU FEEL AFFECTION FOR THIS KENICHI.

NOW I WILL TELL YOU. INDEED, I HAVE AN EXTRAORDINARY INTEREST--NO, RESPECT FOR KENICHI. YOU DO NOT REALIZE THAT EVEN AMONG HUMANS THERE ARE THOSE WHO ARE AS SPLENDID AS WE.

KENICHI IS THE MOST HUMAN OF HUMANS! I ADORE HIM!!

I-I-I-IT IS FORBIDDEN! THIS IS MOST ALARMING!

ROKOKO, WE HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO BANISH YOU!

WITH PLEASURE! I WILL GO AND STAY WITH THE HUMANS!!

YOUR GRAVITY BELT! GIVE UP YOUR GRAVITY BELT!

I NEED NO SUCH THING!

IN ANY CASE, CALL THAT BOY AND BRING HIM HERE!

I WILL GO AND BRING HIM.

ROKOKO IS ON HUMANITY'S SIDE!

TH-THIS CHANGES EVERYTHING! IVAN--

THWAP

SMACK

BANG

SQUEEZE

AAH! I'M TOO LATE!!

H-HOLD ON, IVAN!!!

YOU'RE ALREADY TOO LATE! PULVERIZE THEM, KENICHI!

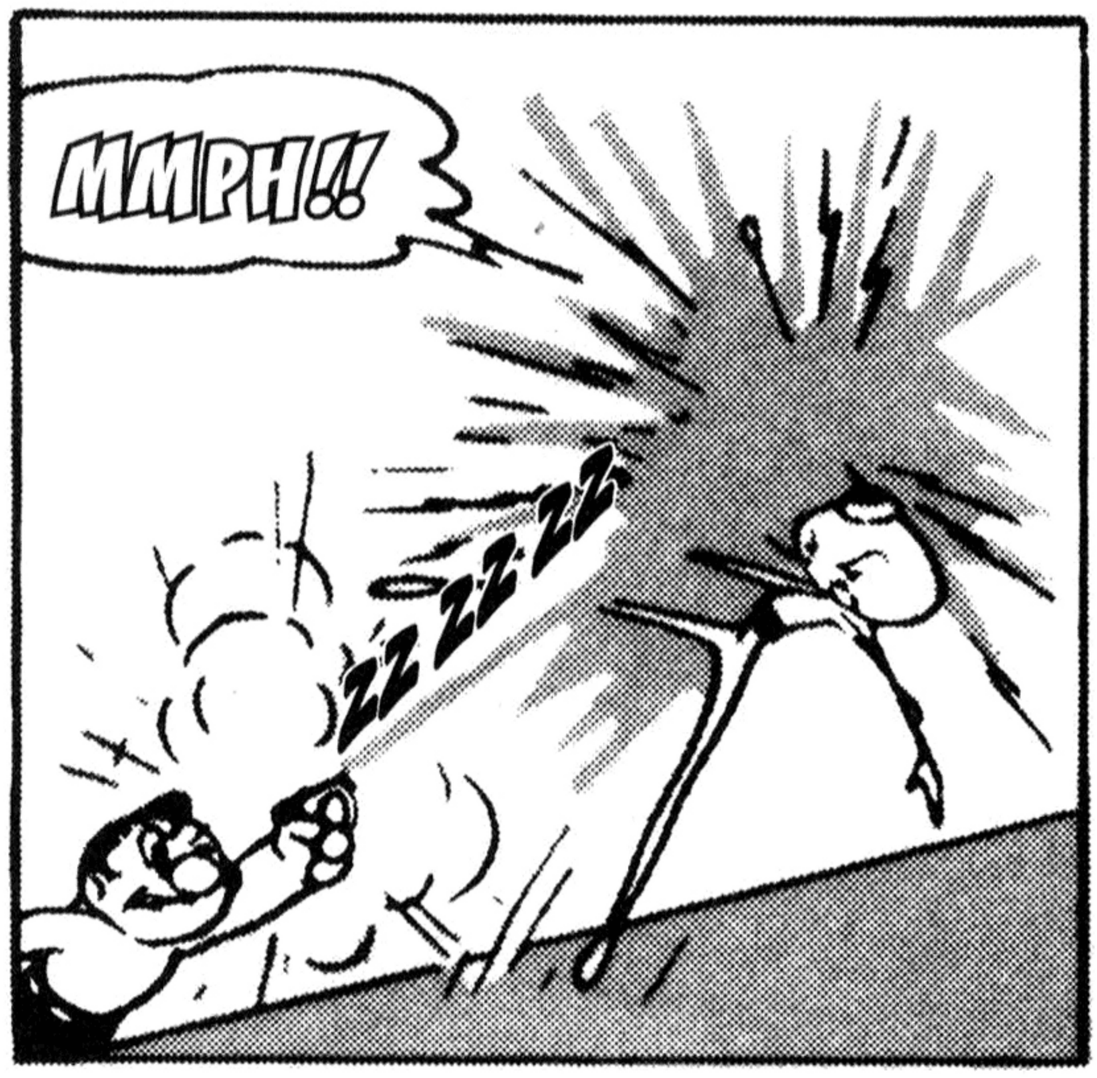
POW

TAKE THEIR WEAPONS!

ROKOKO!

LOOK SHARP! LET'S MAKE BREAK FOR IT!

IF WE GO DOWN HERE, THERE'S AN EXIT-- GREAT!
ALL RIGHT!


MMPH!!
ZZ ZZ ZZ

YOU LITTLE RUNTS! IF YOU'RE GOING TO COME AT US, COME ALL AT ONCE!! KENICHI, HANG IN THERE!

NO MATTER HOW MANY WE BEAT, AN ENDLESS NUMBER COME AFTER THEM!

DILLY DALLY AND THEY'LL USE THEIR GRAVITY!

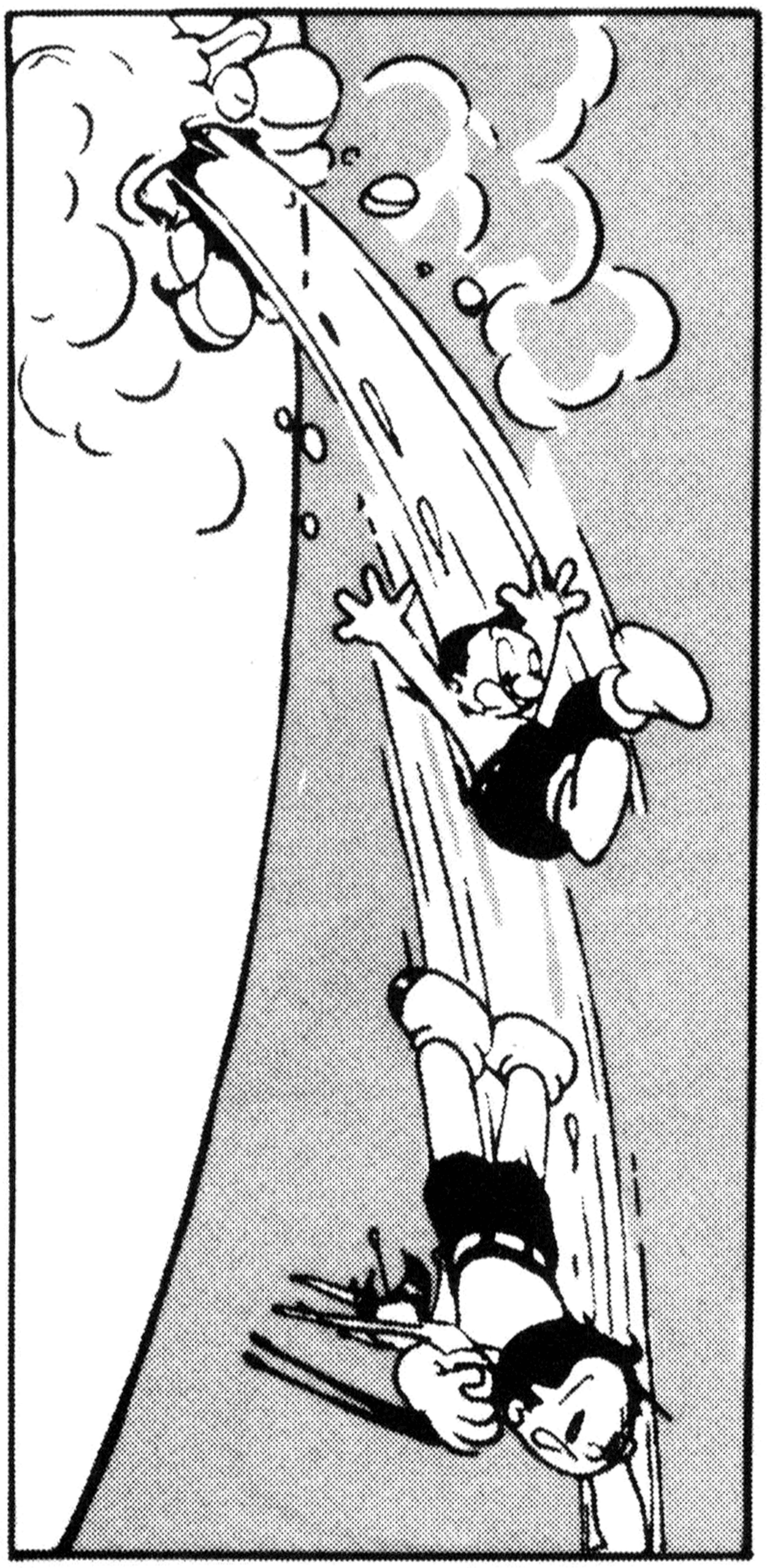
WE'RE GOING TO HIT THE WALL!! AAH!!

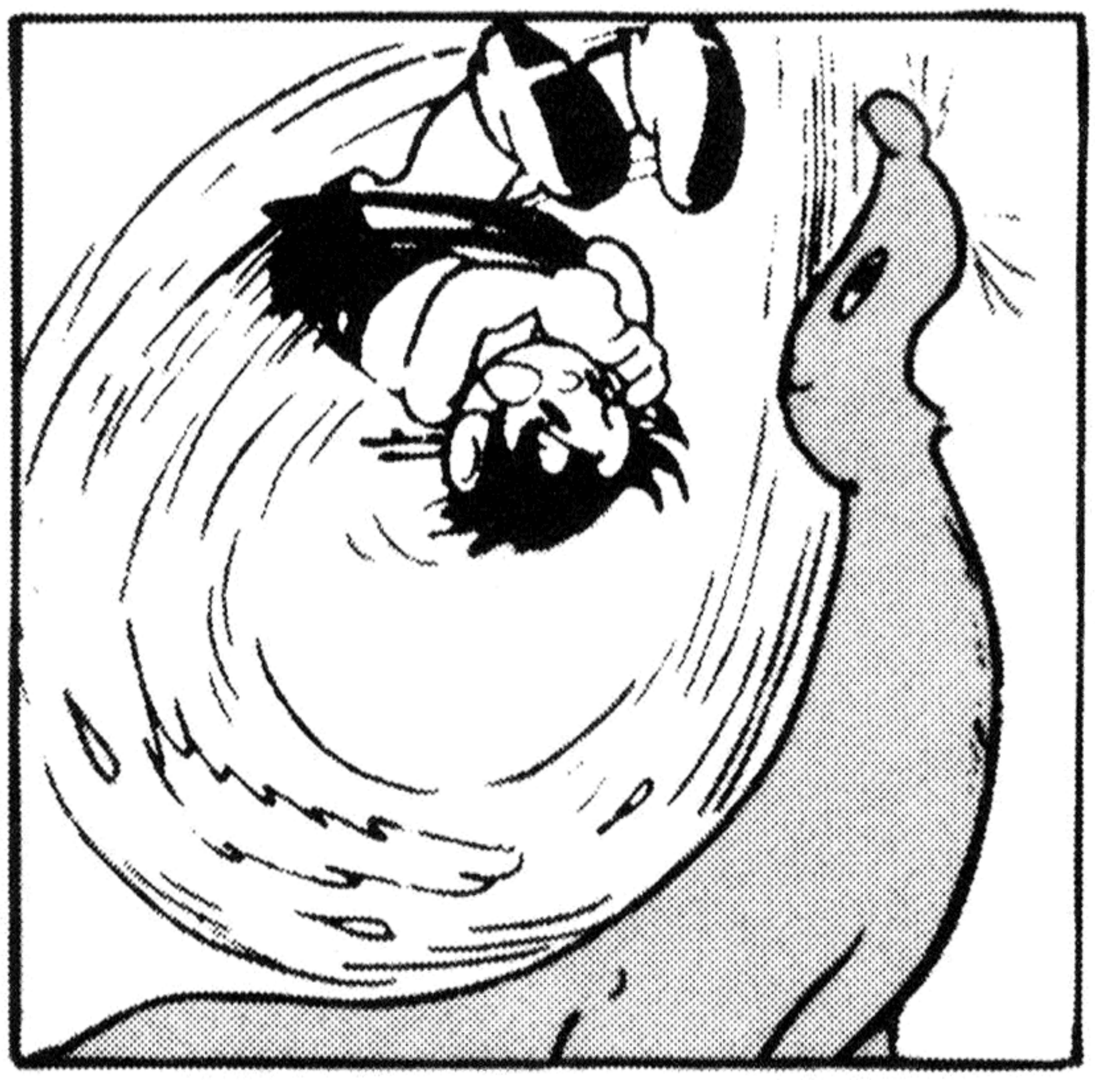
WHO CARES! LET'S HIT IT WITH GUSTO!

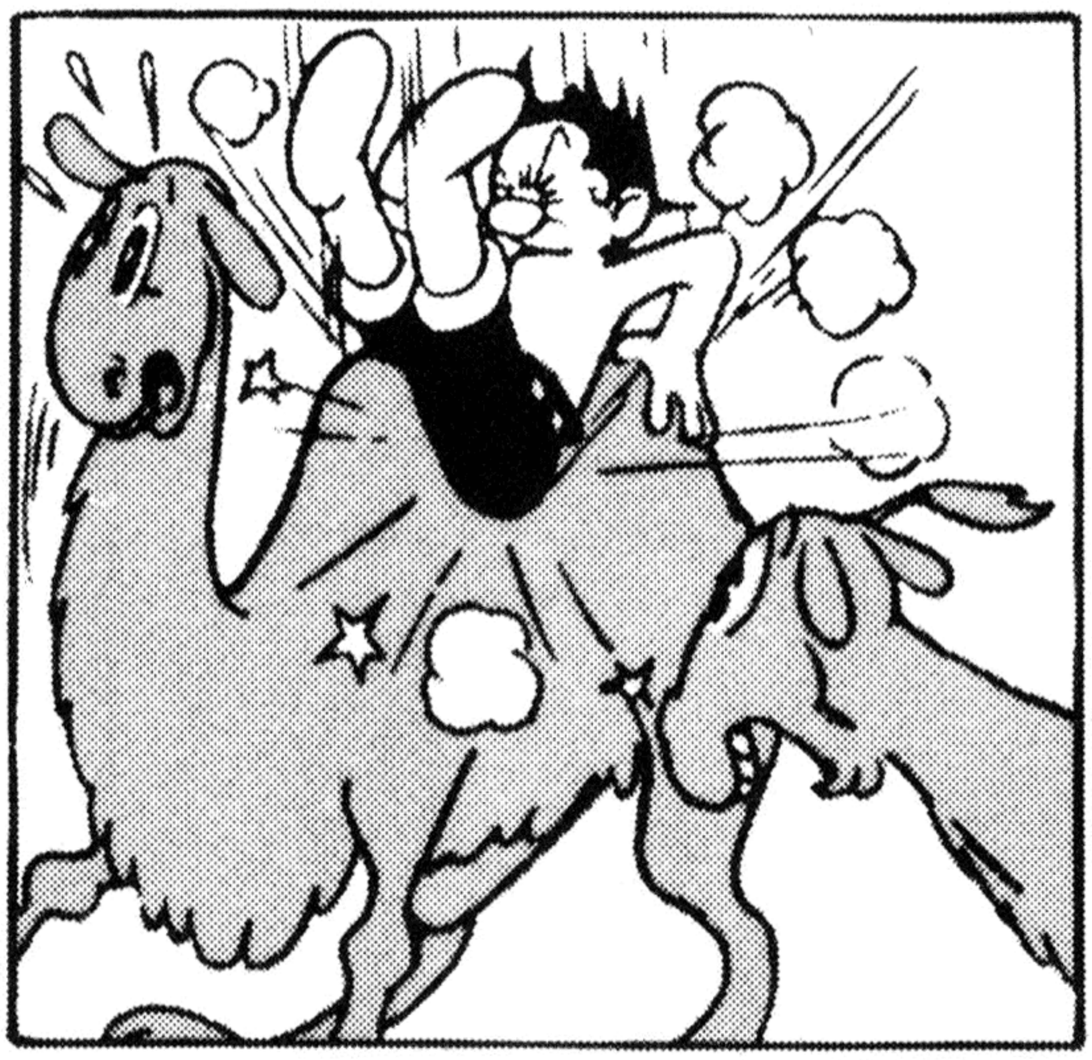
WE HIT IT!

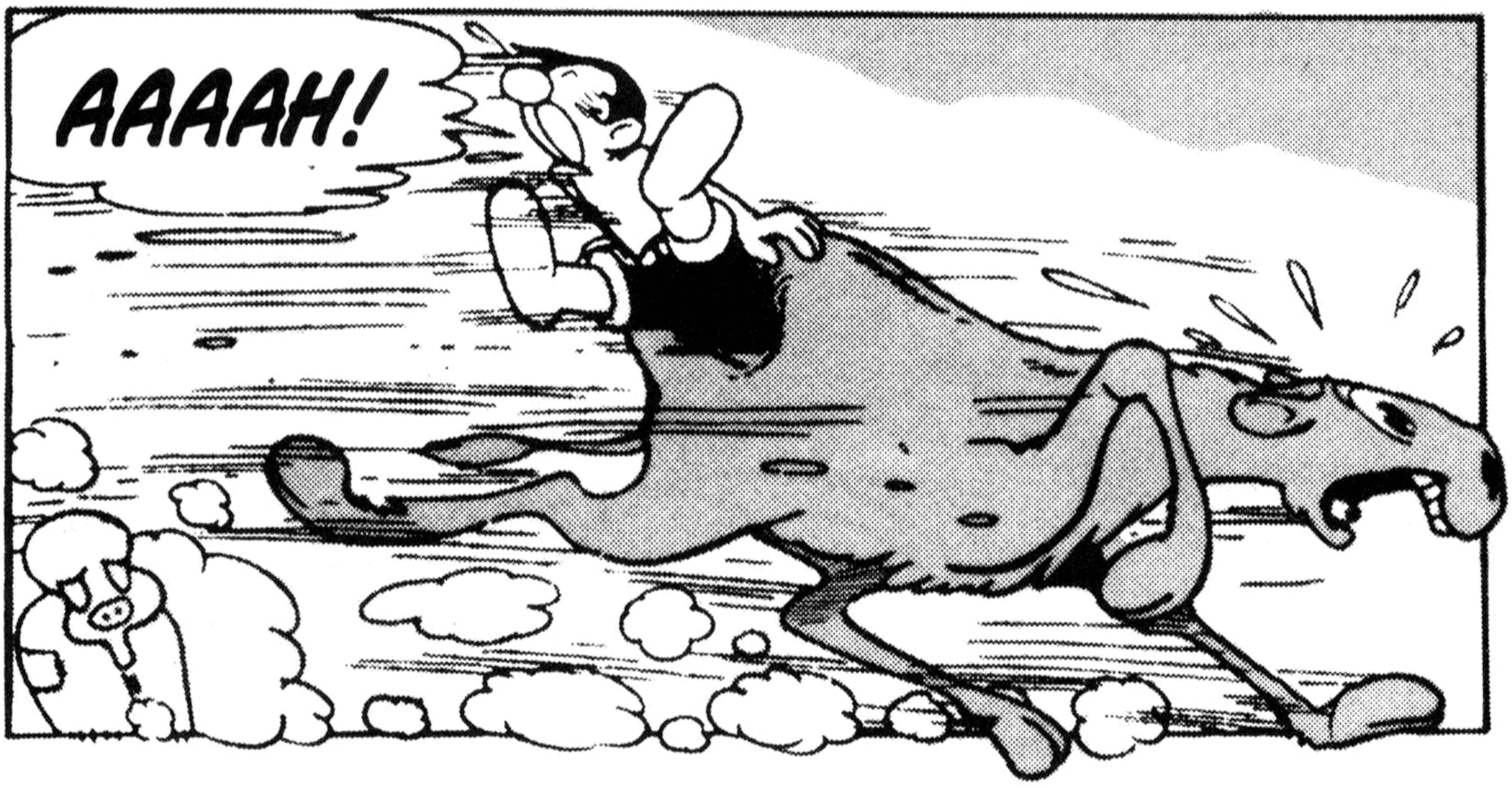
BANG

SMASH








AAAAH!

HYAA!
HYAA!
TH-THEY'VE GOTTEN TO IVAN...
?
BLAST!! THEIR GRAVITY!!

KENICHI!!! FORGET ABOUT ME AND RUN!

OH! ROKOKO... I THOUGHT YOU WERE DEAD...

SHH! MASTER KENICHI, NOW IS THE TIME TO ESCAPE. A SAUCER IS WAITING!

BUT, ROKOKO, IVAN--

QUICKLY! THERE'S AN ENTRANCE OVER THERE.

ARE YOU GOING TOO?!

YOU AND I TOGETHER, KENICHI... OKAY? I'LL TAKE THE CONTROLS.

IVAN!!

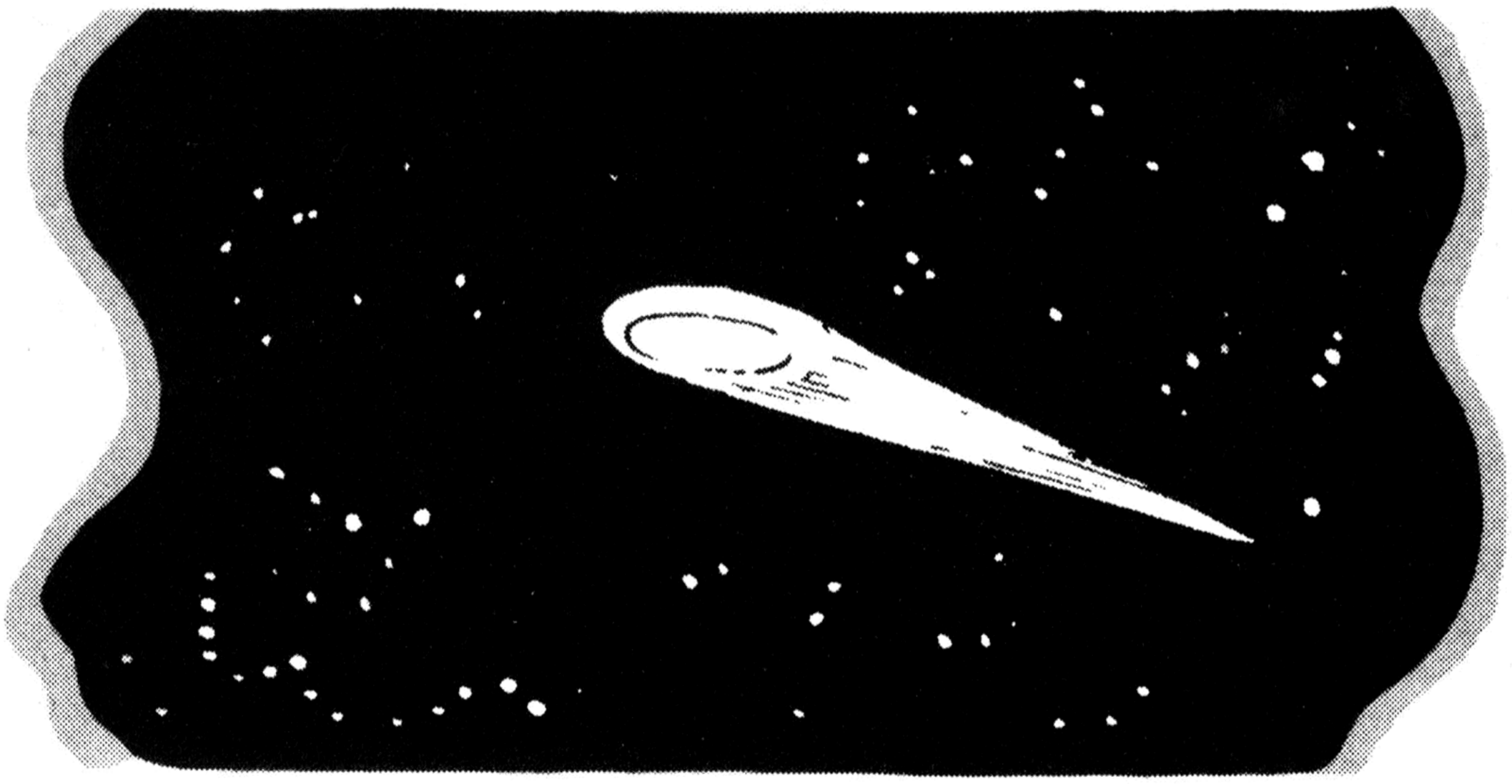
OH, NO...

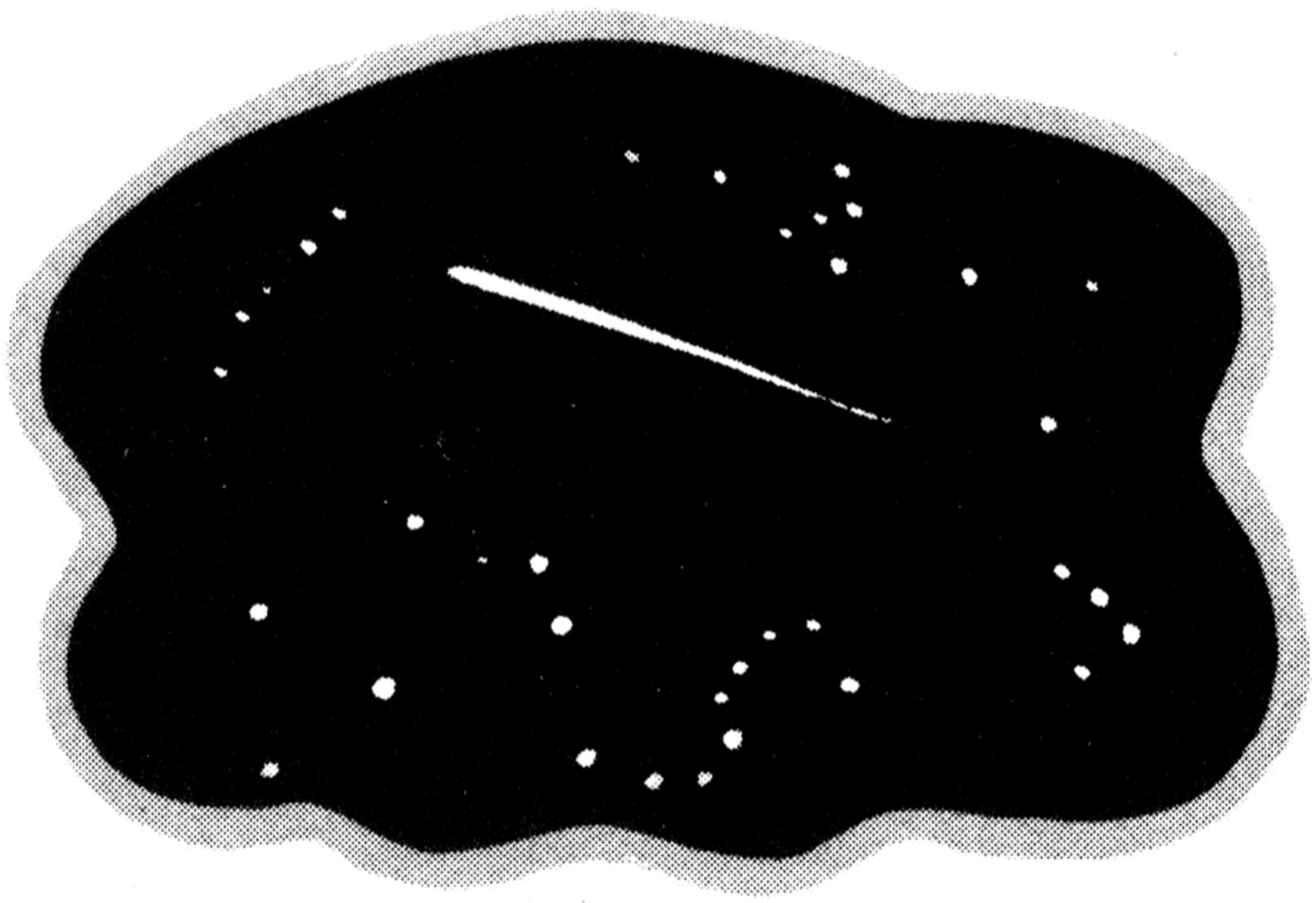
SHA FOO FOO FOOM

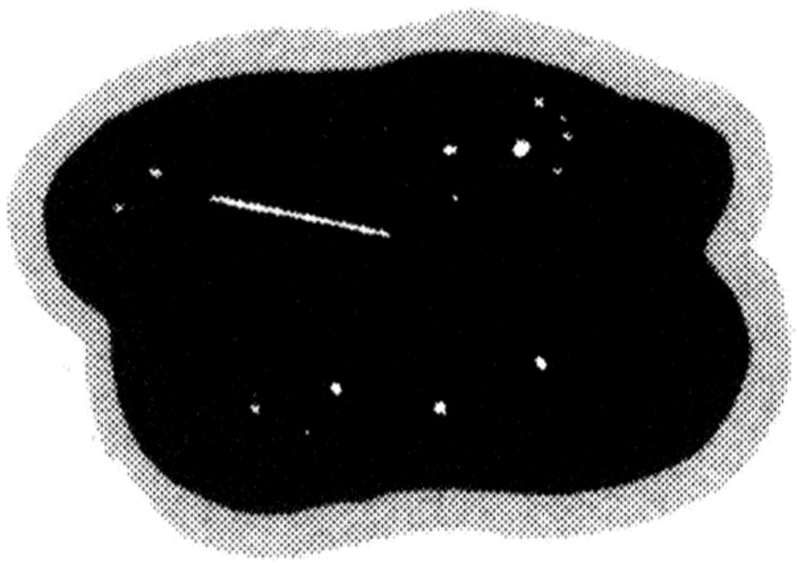
FU-MOON

FUMOON

MOO-MOO!

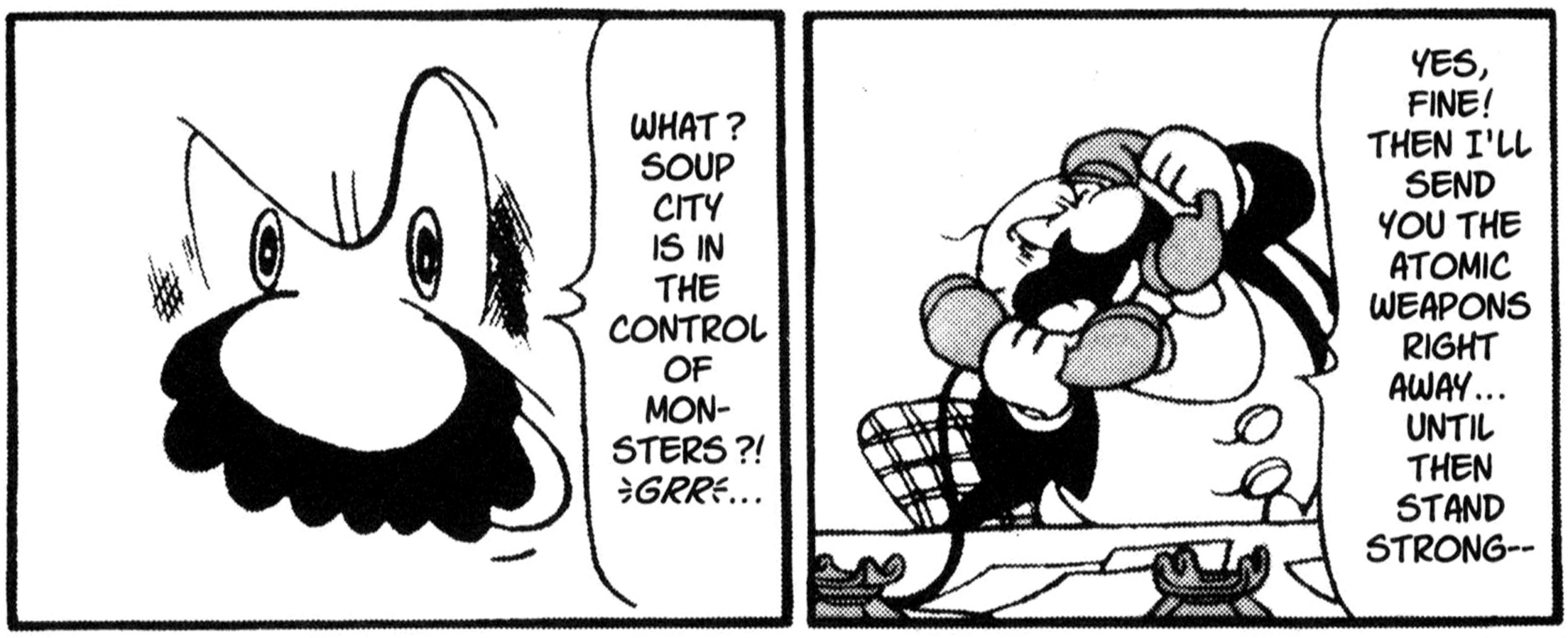






THE GREAT FREE REGION

THE SMALL PEOPLE ATTACK


WHAT? SOUP CITY IS IN THE CONTROL OF MON-STERS?! ≠GRR≠...
YES, FINE! THEN I'LL SEND YOU THE ATOMIC WEAPONS RIGHT AWAY... UNTIL THEN STAND STRONG--
MR. NOTARLIN! WITH GREAT PAINS WE WERE ABLE TO GET A PICTURE OF THE UNKNOWN PERSONS!
HAH HA HA! I WONDER IF THIS IS A NEW SECOND ENEMY APPEARING.
SLAM
HOW DO I KNOW?!

HMM. I'M SURE I'VE SEEN THIS THING SOMEWHERE BEFORE...

IT DOES LOOK LIKE *SOMETHING*, DOESN'T IT?

DR. FRANKENSTEIN, IT APPEARS THAT THE FUMOON HAVE ARRIVED.

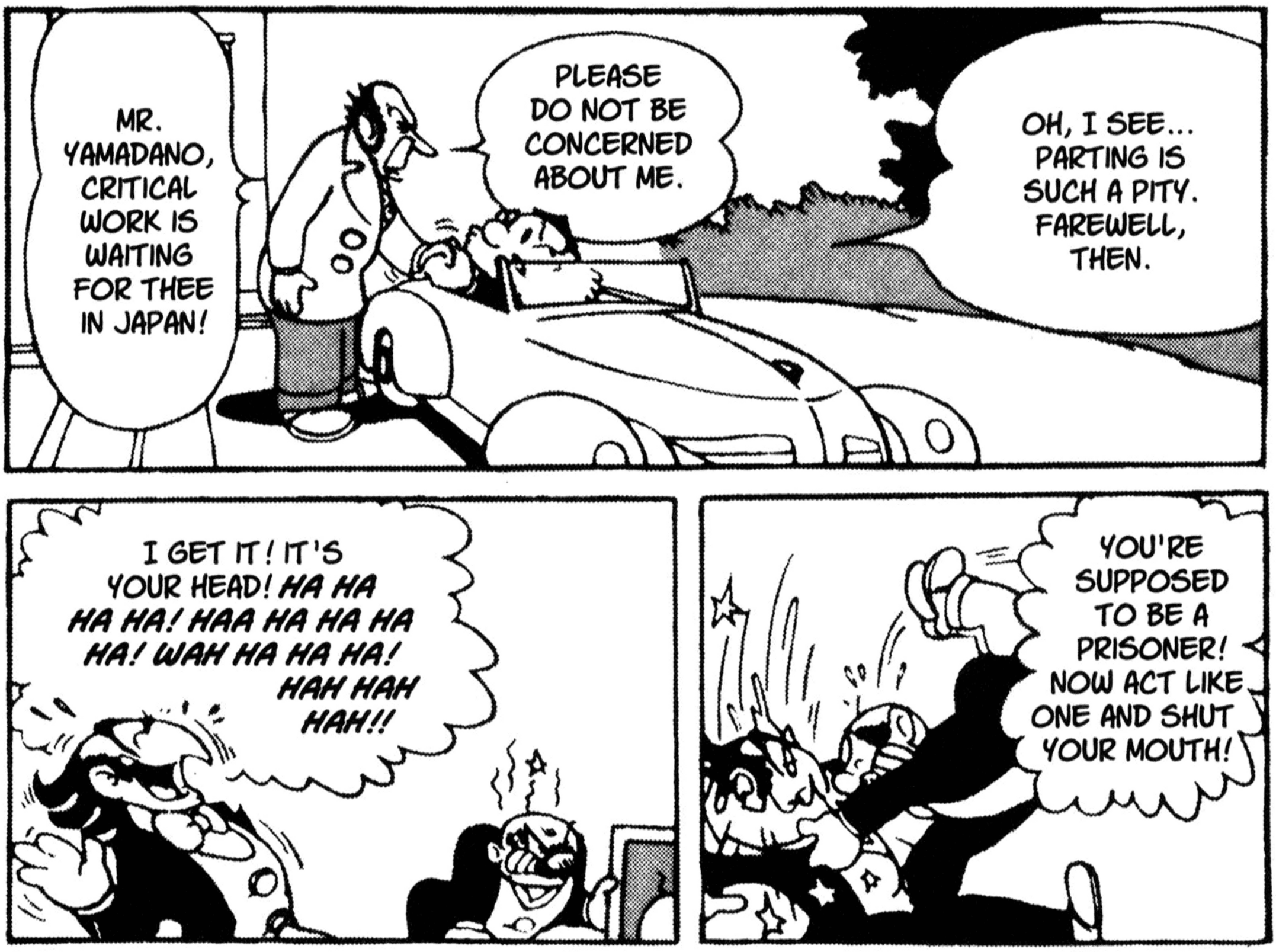
OH, NOW I GET IT! *HAH HA HA HA HA!*

DOCTOR, IT'S TOO DANGEROUS HERE! WE'VE GOT TO SEEK SHELTER QUICKLY!

THIS IS MY PRECIOUS LABORATORY. I HAVE NO DESIRE TO PART WITH IT.

I WISH TO STAY HERE UNTIL THE VERY END AND CONTINUE MY OBSERVATIONS OF THE GAS.

I ALWAYS KNEW YOU WERE STRANGE, BUT UP UNTIL NOW THAT'S THE STRANGEST THING I'VE HEARD YOU SAY YET.

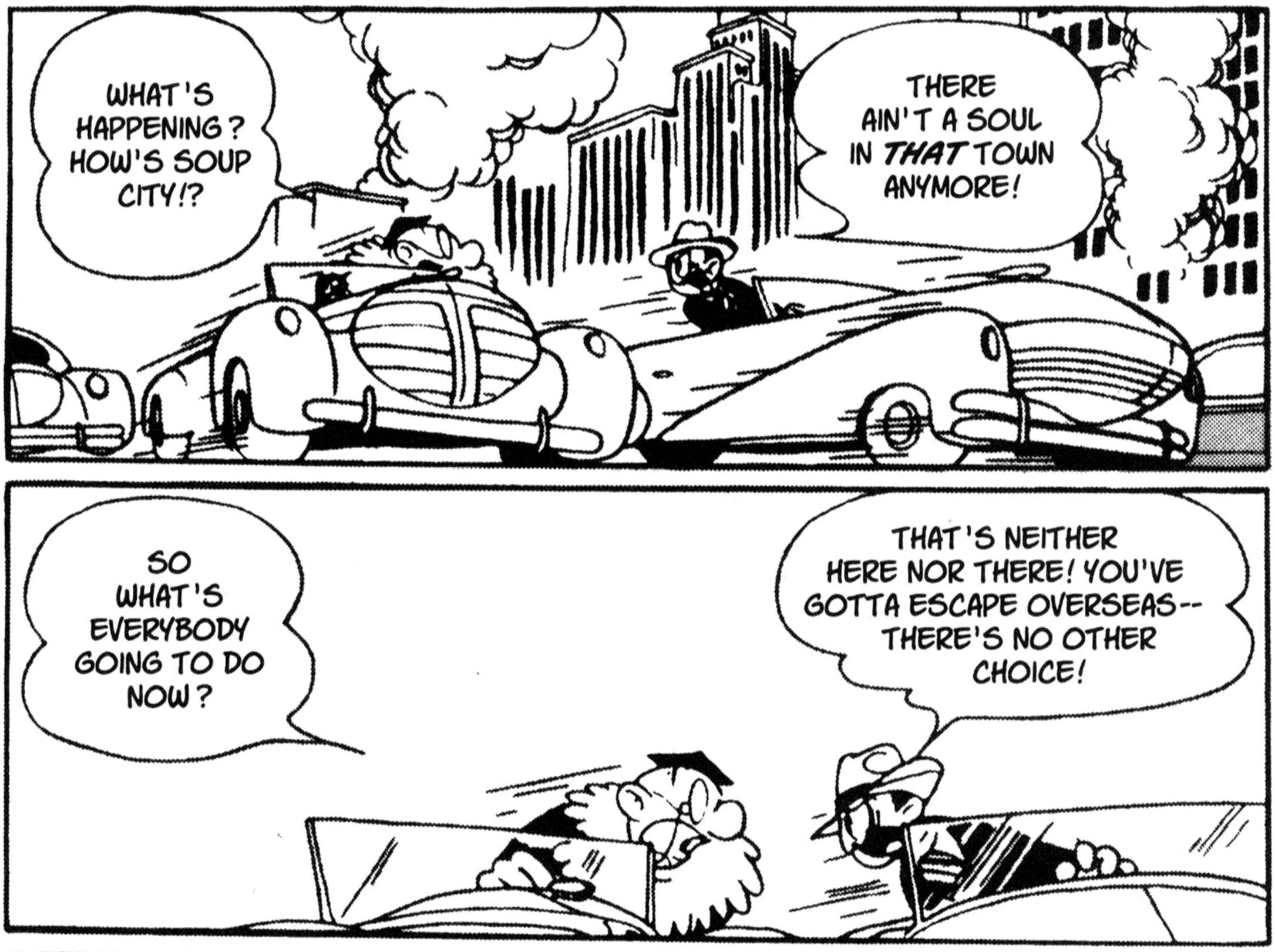

MR. YAMADANO, CRITICAL WORK IS WAITING FOR THEE IN JAPAN!
PLEASE DO NOT BE CONCERNED ABOUT ME.
OH, I SEE... PARTING IS SUCH A PITY. FAREWELL, THEN.
I GET IT! IT'S YOUR HEAD! HA HA HA HA! HAA HA HA HA HA! WAH HA HA HA! HAH HAH HAH!!
YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE A PRISONER! NOW ACT LIKE ONE AND SHUT YOUR MOUTH!
REPORT! THE ENEMY ARE DRAWING OUR UNMANNED VESSELS WITH A MYSTERIOUS POWER.
23RD TASK FORCE REPORT! OUR UNMANNED VESSELS HAVE ALL SELF-DESTRUCTED.
8TH FLYING CORPS REPORT!
OUR ARMORED TANKS HAVE BEEN BROUGHT TO A STANDSTILL AND WILL NOT MOVE.
OOF! UHH...
REPORT! IT'S BAD NEWS BUT--
REPORT!

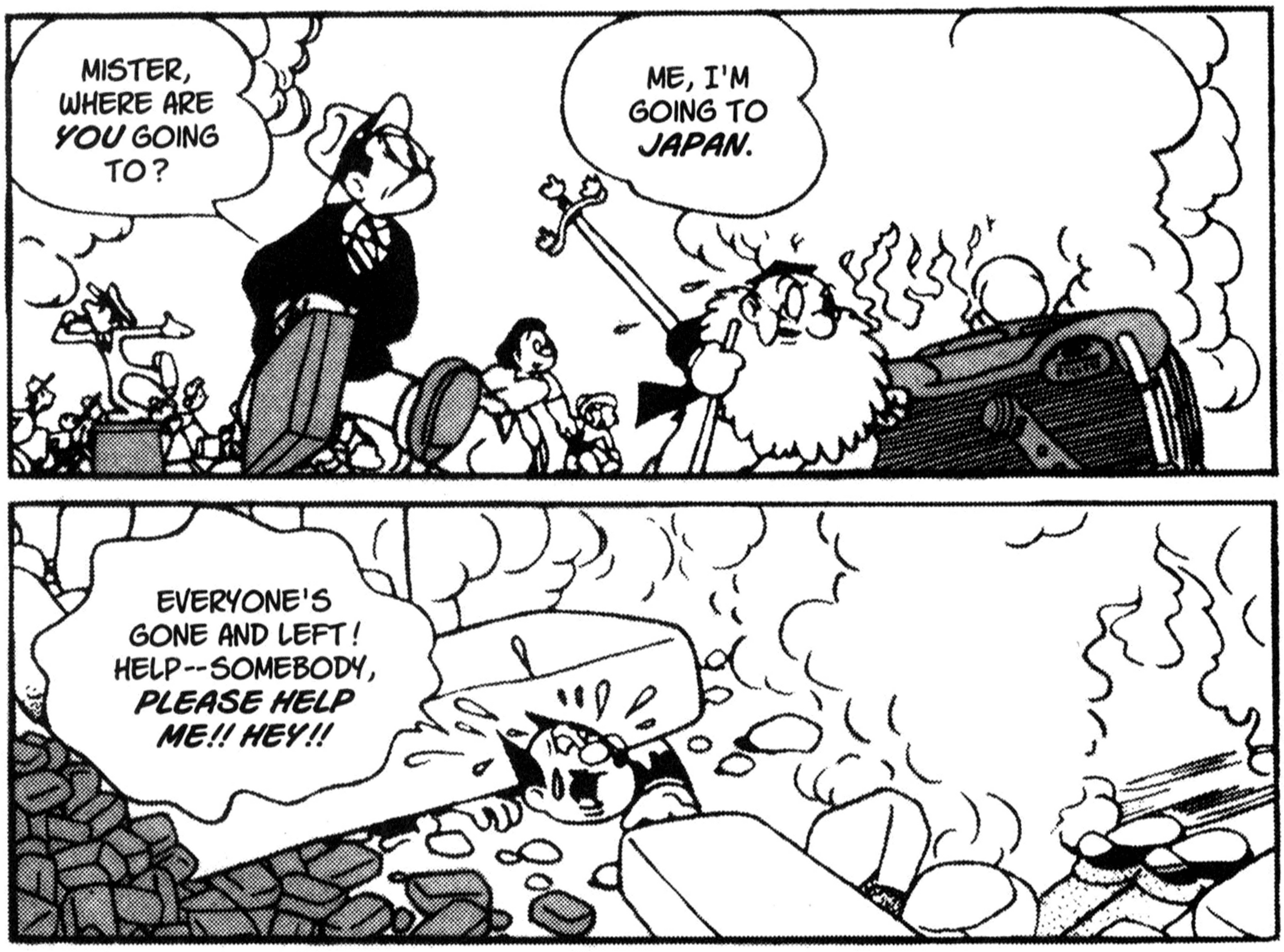
?

THE MONSTERS ARE HERE!!

RUN AWAY!!

AAAH! WE'RE ALL DOOMED!!


WHAT'S HAPPENING? HOW'S SOUP CITY!?
THERE AIN'T A SOUL IN *THAT* TOWN ANYMORE!
SO WHAT'S EVERYBODY GOING TO DO NOW?
THAT'S NEITHER HERE NOR THERE! YOU'VE GOTTA ESCAPE OVERSEAS-- THERE'S NO OTHER CHOICE!
CARS'RE NO GOOD ON THIS ROAD. LET'S WALK.
IT'S GOING TO BE A STRUGGLE TO THE AIR FIELD, I GUESS.
COME ON ALREADY! IF WE DON'T HURRY UP WE'LL BE LATE GETTING ON THE PLANE!
HELP ME!!


MISTER, WHERE ARE YOU GOING TO?
ME, I'M GOING TO JAPAN.
EVERYONE'S GONE AND LEFT! HELP--SOMEBODY, PLEASE HELP ME!! HEY!!
OH, NO! THERE WAS A BURST OF FLAMES FROM FRANKENSTEIN'S OBSERVATORY--
THIS OLD GUY KEEPS STOPPING TO SMELL THE FLOWERS! WHAT CAN I DO...
MR. PRESIDENT! PLEASE HOLD ON!
SIR! S-SIR! HE LOST CONSCIOUSNESS AS SOON AS WE ARRIVED!
HEY!! THOSE CREATURES ARE HERE!!

WAH! WAH!

HOLY--! LOOK AT ALL THESE EVACUEES!

WHERE TO?

LET'S ESCAPE TO JAPAN.

IF YOU DON'T STOP CRYING, THE MONSTERS WILL COME!

I SAW THE CREATURES MYSELF! THOSE THINGS AREN'T HUMAN--THEY'RE DEVILS!

IF THEY'RE DEVILS, THEN WE'VE GOT NO CHOICE BUT TO RUN.

OH! ISN'T THAT DR. YAMADANO?

CHATTER YADA

HEY, BRO! LET'S RUN AWAY TOO!

SHH!

WE'LL GO TO JAPAN. SOMETHING'LL WORK OUT.

OH! MR. NOTARLIN!

AND IN THE END, MY DEAR NATION OF STAR IS FINISHED...

AN UNEXPECTED CASTAWAY

DOCTOR, I NOW FINALLY UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU MEANT BY "THE NEXT WORLD." I DON'T KNOW HOW I CAN EVEN LOOK YOU IN THE FACE ANYMORE.

YOU MUSN'T BE SURPRISED BY THIS, BUT RIGHT NOW WE'RE BEING FACED BY AN EVEN GREATER CRISIS!

AN EVEN GREATER CRISIS?!

THAT'S CORRECT. THE EARTH'S FINAL DAY IS NOW APPROACHING.

EARTH'S FINAL DAY?!

ON, NO!

THAT'S A SUR-PISE.

BUT, DOCTOR, YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO'S SAID SUCH A THING.

THE WORLD'S OBSERVATORIES WILL BE MAKING A RACKET ABOUT IT SOON ENOUGH.

WHEN IS THAT?!

'BOUT THREE MONTHS FROM TODAY.

TH-THIS IS YOUR FAULT! YOUR COUNTRY GAVE US ZERO INFORMATION ABOUT THIS!

IF YOU'D ONLY INFORMED US AHEAD OF TIME...

WE WOULDN'T HAVE TO MEET WITH SUCH A TERRIBLE END! OH, COCOA!! =BOO HOO!=

THIS IS BECAUSE YOU'RE SO *THOUGHT-LESS!*

YOU CALL *ME* THOUGHTLESS?! THIS AND EVERYTHING ELSE IS ALL YOUR FOUL UP!

MY *WHAT* UP?!

YOU *SHADDUP!*

HEY, LOOK! THERE'S A LITTLE BOAT FLOATING ON THE WATER DOWN THERE!

LET'S SEE NOW... OH! I'VE SEEN THE PERSON RIDING ON IT BEFORE...!

AH! A-HA! NOW I REMEMBER! IT'S *MUSTACHIO*... THE DETECTIVE!!

HELLOOO! HELLOOO!

=YOWCH!= HE-*HELP MEEE!!*

YAY! I KNEW IT! *MR. MUSTA-CHIO!!*

HEY! YOU'RE DR. *YAMADANO*...

HOW UNCANNY FOR US TO MEET HERE BY CHANCE LIKE THIS!

YOU SAVED ME! I SPENT A WHOLE MONTH ALREADY DRIFTING ON THE SEA... I'M STARVING...

LET ME INTRODUCE YOU. EVERYONE, THIS IS MR. MUSTACHIO, WHO WENT MISSING WITH THAT FUMOON... WELL, THEN, LET US HEAR THE STORY OF WHAT HAPPENED AFTER THAT.

AT LEAST LET ME EAT FIRST.

VOOSH

DOCTOR, IT'S JAPAN!

HAVE WE ARRIVED ?

KENICHI!!

REUNION

WHOA!
MR. MUSTACHIO!!!

SHUNSUKE BAN DETECTIVE OFFICE

HEY! WH-WHERE ON EARTH DID YOU GO OFF TO ALL THIS TIME?!

HOW GOOD YOU CAME BACK TO US.

LET ME SEE KENICHI! KENICHI! KENICHI! I WANNA SEE KENICHI!

WHILE YOU WERE GONE, MASTER KENICHI ALSO WENT ON AN AMAZING ADVENTURE, YOU KNOW. HE WENT LOOKING FOR YOU--

WHAT?! HE WENT LOOKING FOR ME... THEN, NOW KENICHI IS--

IT'S ALL RIGHT. KENICHI CAME BACK TO US LAST NIGHT IN A FLYING SAUCER.

KE-
KENICHI
!!

UNCLE!!

KENICHI!
KENICHI!
KENICHI!
KENICHI!
I MISSED
YOU! I
MISSED
YOU!

UNCLE! UNCLE!
UNCLE! UNCLE!
I MISSED YOU!
I MISSED YOU!

YELP!!
IT'S THE
FUMOON FROM
THAT NIGHT!!

UNCLE, THIS
IS ROKOKO.
SHE'S MY
FRIEND.

YELP
!!

UNCLE, I HAVE
MANY THINGS TO
TELL YOU. COME ON!
COME ON!

YIPE!!

IT'S ALL RIGHT! ROKOKO ALREADY GOT RID OF HER GRAVITY BELT.

YIPE!

MR. MUSTACHIO, ACCORDING TO WHAT ROKOKO'S TOLD US, IT SEEMS THAT THE EARTH IS FACING SOME KIND OF TERRIFYING CRISIS.

HMM! I HEARD THE SAME FROM DR. YAMADANO ON THE PLANE. NOW, LOOK! THE SITUATION IS EXTREME! THE ONLY THING TO DO IS EVACUATE!

EVACTUATE? BUT WHERE ARE YOU GOING TO GO? EVERY SINGLE ONE OF US IS GOING TO DIE OF SUFFOCATION!

S-S-S- ***SUFFOCATION?!*** YOU MEAN WE'RE GOING TO STOP BREATHING?! S-SERIOUSLY?

UNCLE! THE WHOLE EARTH IS GOING TO BE ENVELOPED BY GAS!

THERE! PLEASE LOOK AT THAT.

OVER THERE IS WHERE THE GAS IS. EVERY NIGHT, LITTLE BY LITTLE, THE STARS BECOME HIDDEN, DON'T YOU SEE? AND SO BEFORE LONG, THE ENTIRE SKY WILL BECOME HIDDEN BY THE GAS... THAT MOMENT WILL BE END OF THE EARTH.

I SEE...

LEAVE IT TO ME TO CONDUCT THE BUDDHIST FUNERAL SERVICE.

THIS IS A RESULT OF OUR PREVIOUS KARMIC LIFE.

BOO HOO!

I DON'T WANT TO DIE! TO THINK I'VE BEEN SAVING ALL MY MONEY UNTIL NOW FOR NOTHING...

WELL, NOW'S THE TIME TO USE AS MUCH OF THAT MONEY AS POSSI-BLE TO HAVE A GOOD TIME!

KENICHI, WE'VE GOT TO HURRY UP A BIT!

REVEREND, YOU CAN'T CONDUCT THE SERVICE 'CAUSE YOU'LL BE DEAD TOO! ≒BOO HOO HOO!≒

FLYING SAUCERS

I JUST REMEMBERED-- DR. YAMADANO'S BROADCAST. AS SOON AS THE DOCTOR GOT BACK TO JAPAN HE WENT STRAIGHT TO THE TV STATION.

--THE DAY OF THIS GREAT EVENT WILL OCCUR THREE MONTHS FROM TODAY.

AND TO THINK THAT THE LAST TIME THE DOCTOR MADE A BROADCAST, EVERYONE MADE FUN OF HIM AND NO ONE LISTENED.

RIGHT NOW THE FUMOON ARE TAKING OVER THE WHOLE WORLD. THE ONLY FREE REGION HAS BECOME ASIA!

IN ORDER TO SAVE HUMANITY, JAPAN WILL HAVE TO BUILD ROCKETS TO ESCAPE THE EARTH!

PLEASE, MY FELLOW HUMAN BEINGS, UNTIL THE VERY END, STAY CALM...

AND DO THE VERY BEST YOU CAN...

TH-THIS IS THE END OF THE DOCTOR'S SPECIAL BROADCAST.

BOY! THAT ANNOUNCER IS TREMBLING FROM THE SHOCK.

GOSH, IT'S SO SILENT OUT THERE, IT'S EERIE!

BUT SOON IT'S GOING TO BE A TERRIBLE COMMOTION!

HMPHH

THAT'S IT! WE'VE GOT TO BUILD ROCKETS-- THAT'S THE PROBLEM!

YOU JUST GOT THAT ?

UNCLE! ROKOKO HAS GIVEN US A FLYING SAUCER!

IF WE USE THAT AS A MODEL, WE CAN BUILD PLENTY OF SAUCERS JUST LIKE IT!

AH! A-HA! LOVELY! THAT'S WHAT WE'LL DO!

WHY DON'T YOU LET ME BE THE ONE TO TAKE ON THAT JOB?

ACETY-LENE LAMP'S THE NAME. PLEASED TO MAKE YOUR ACQUAINT-ANCE...

WH-WHO *ARE* YOU?

I'M AN OLD AQCUAINTANCE OF DR. YAMADANO... HE PUT ME IN CHARGE OF ROCKET PRODUCTION.

WHA--?! YOU?!

HEH HEH HEH! MY FORTUNE IS WORTH MILLIONS. I'VE GOT IRON AND ALUMINUM FROM THE SOUTH SEAS, MALAYSIA, JAVA... I'VE GOT IT ALL, SEE?

NOW LEMME TELL YOU THAT THING I CAME HERE TO TELL MUSTACHIO ABOUT... *HEH HEH HEH!* JUST LEAVE IT TO ME... I'M A HUMAN BEING TOO, SEE. I'LL SACRIFICE MY EVERY POSSESSION FOR THE SAKE OF SAVING HUMANITY.

HE MUST BE UP TO NO GOOD!

THE PHYSIOGNIMIST IN ME DOESN'T LIKE THE LOOK OF HIM.

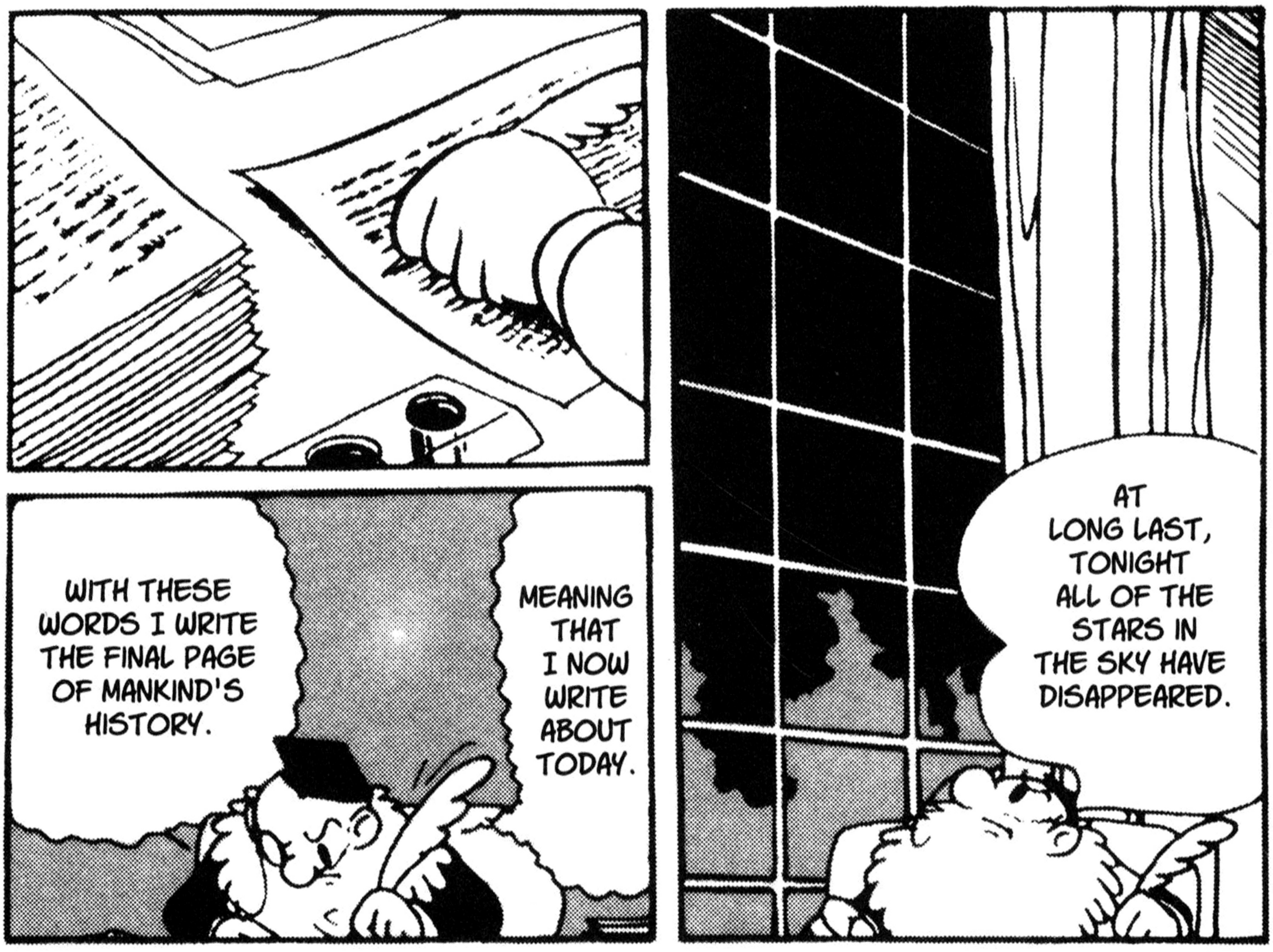
WHAT DO YOU THINK?

WELL, AS LONG AS IT WAS DR. YAMADANO WHO RECOMMENDED YOU... PLEASE HELP US, MISTER!!

I'M A HUMAN BEING TOO, SEE. *HEH HEH HEH!*

THE EARTH'S FINAL DAY

HELL ON EARTH


AT LONG LAST, TONIGHT ALL OF THE STARS IN THE SKY HAVE DISAPPEARED.
WITH THESE WORDS I WRITE THE FINAL PAGE OF MANKIND'S HISTORY.
MEANING THAT I NOW WRITE ABOUT TODAY.

AS THIS DAY APPROACHED,
THE WHOLE WORLD BEGAN TO RUN
AS WILD AS IT COULD!

IT
WAS
HELL ON
EARTH.

KASMASH

BANG

GET
THAT BALD
SON OF
A--!

THAT'S *MY* TICKET!

I BOUGHT IT!!

I'M HERE WITH THE MONEY I GOT FOR SELLING MY FAMILY MANSION.

I WAS FIRST--

SAUCER RESERVED SEAT TICKET SALES

THAT'S TOO MUCH! GIMME A DISCOUNT!

I'LL HAVE TEN OVER HERE!

YOU THINK I CARE?! I'LL BUST IT UP AND THEN TAKE THE TICKETS AND EVERYTHING!

MASTER, MR. MUSTACHIO HAS ARRIVED.

TELL 'IM I'M BUSY NOW.

THIS IS MY ENTIRE FORTUNE. I LEFT NOTHING BEHIND AND BROUGHT EVERYTHING HERE. I'D LIKE TO HAVE THREE TICKETS WITH THIS.

EH, AT THE MOST THIS'LL GET YOU ONE.

WHA--?! THAT'S TOO MUCH...

IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT, GET OUT. IN EXCHANGE FOR YOUR LIFE 100 MILLION YEN IS PRETTY CHEAP.

MR. LAMP, YOU'VE GOT A SEAT RESERVED FOR ME, HAVEN'T YOU?

HEY! DID YOU BUY A TICKET?

I'VE GOT NO USE FOR FOLKS WITH NO MONEY.

LAMP! YOU WON'T GET AWAY WITH ONLY LETTING RICH PEOPLE ON THE SAUCERS!

WHAT?! TRY SAYING THAT AGAIN!

WHAT I SAY DECIDES WHETHER YOU OR ANYONE ELSE IN THE WORLD LIVES OR DIES!

SO JUST BE CAREFUL WHAT YOU SAY TO ME!

L-LAMP...! WHAT ARE YOU--

≠GYOOFF!≠ ...AM I DEAD YET?

PUTTING THE SAUCERS INTO THE HANDS OF THAT GUY WAS TRULY THE BIGGEST MISTAKE OF MY LIFE, WASN'T IT?

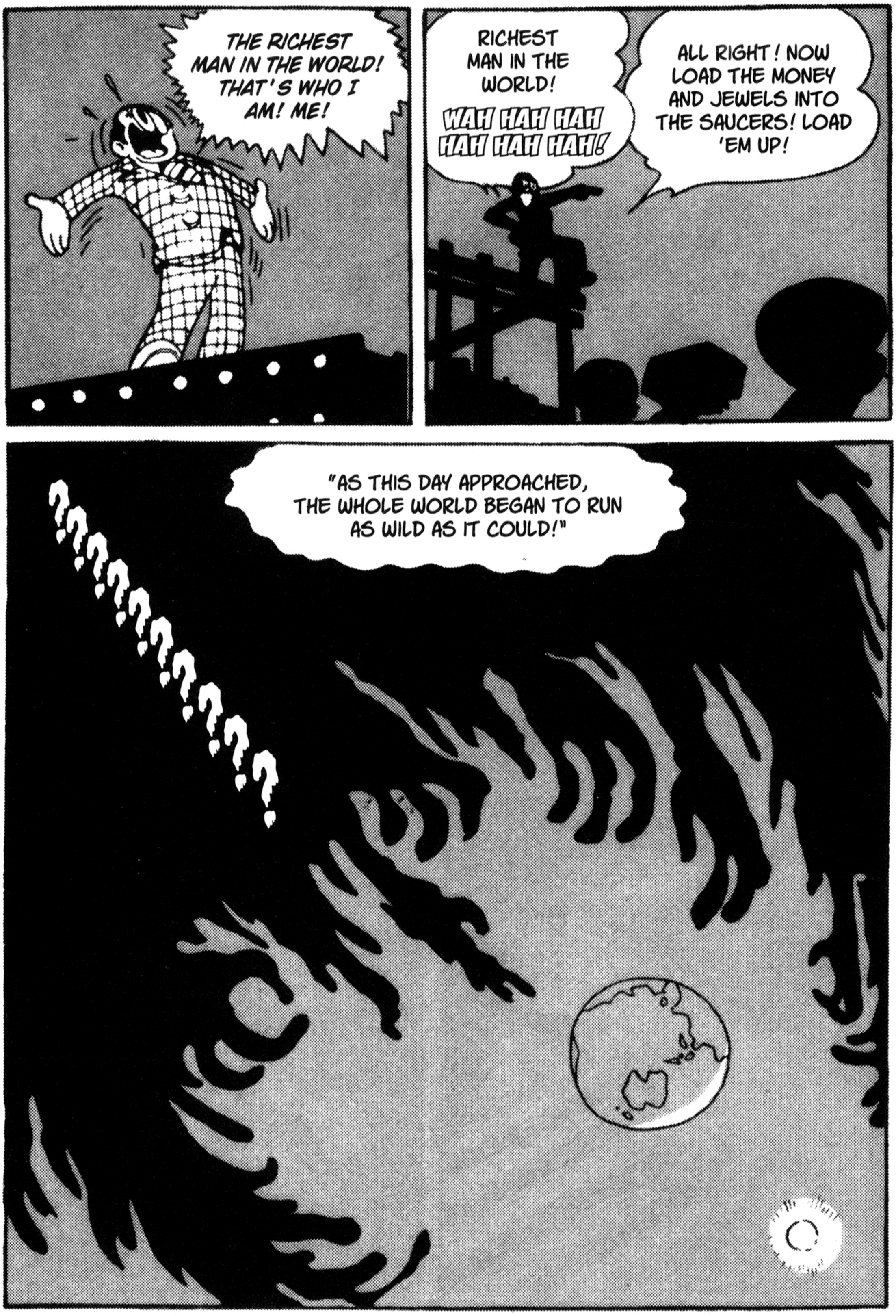
...WE'RE ALREADY TOO LATE.

HA HAH! SOON THE SAUCERS WILL BE COMPLETE... AND I WILL BE THE RICHEST OF THE EARTH'S SURVIVORS!

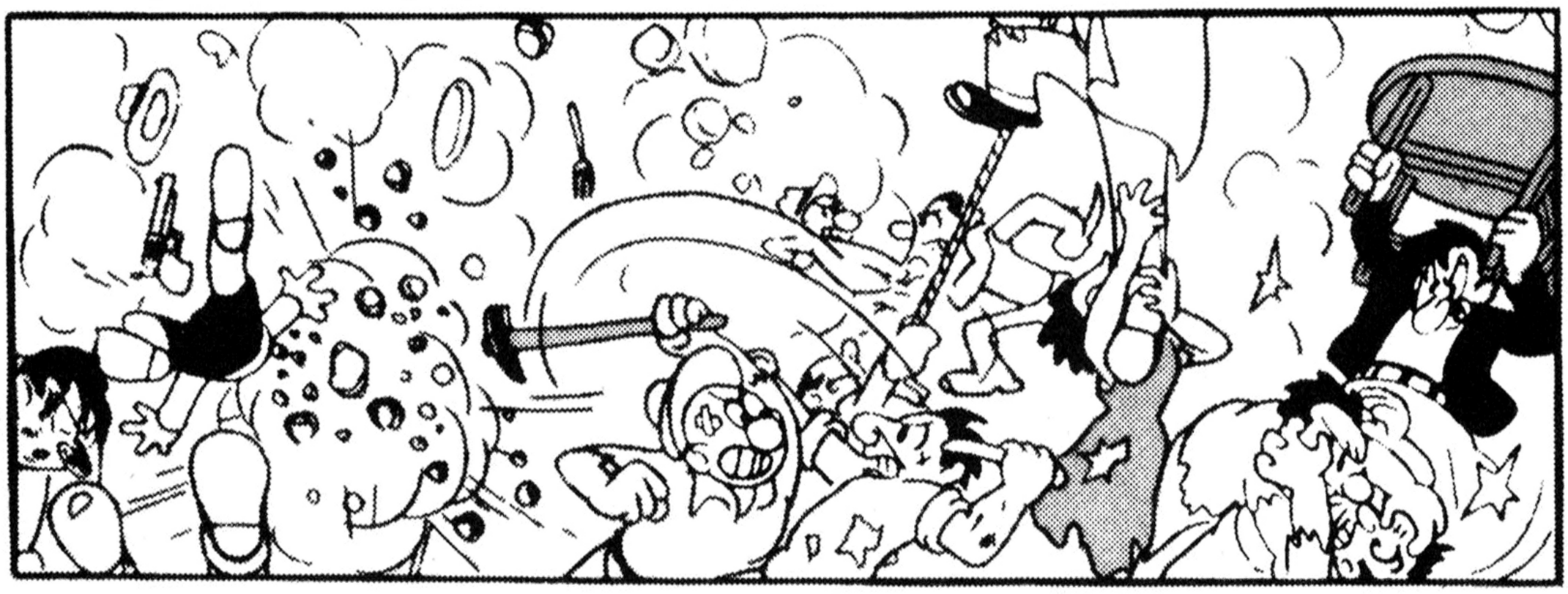
BRO, NOW YOU'VE GOT ALL THIS MONEY, THAT'S ENOUGH, ISN'T IT?!

HEH HEH...! THE MORE OF IT I GET, THE MORE I WANT.

MONEY, THAT IS!


THE RICHEST MAN IN THE WORLD! THAT'S WHO I AM! ME!
RICHEST MAN IN THE WORLD!
WAH HAH HAH HAH HAH HAH!
ALL RIGHT! NOW LOAD THE MONEY AND JEWELS INTO THE SAUCERS! LOAD 'EM UP!
"AS THIS DAY APPROACHED, THE WHOLE WORLD BEGAN TO RUN AS WILD AS IT COULD!"
??????

AT LAST CAME THE DAY



MORNING, EVERYONE.

WOW... TAKE A LOOK AT THAT! THE SURFACE OF THE SKY IS SPARKLING WITH SILVER LIGHT.

THAT'S FROM THE GAS REFLECTING THE LIGHT OF THE SUN.

MY, MY, NOW! MR. ROKKAKU, IS THAT YOUR BURIAL ATTIRE?

IT'S MY JUDO UNIFORM! *HA HA HA!*

TEACHER, WE'VE STILL GOT AN HOUR BEFORE WE ALL DIE. LET'S HAVE A MATCH!

AREN'T YOU AFRAID OF DYING?

IT'S ALL HOW YA THINK ABOUT AT IT. BEING ABLE TO WITNESS THE END OF THE EARTH WILL BE INTERESTING, DON'T YOU THINK?

LISTEN! MR. WADA'S PLAYING HIS CLOSING NUMBER!

IT'S BEETHOVEN.

DUM DUM DUM DUM DUM DUM

SING! SING ANYTHING!

I WANT TO CRY OUT TOO... LET'S DO IT!

NANMAIDA...

TWENTY MORE MINUTES, ISN'T IT? THE SKY IS SO LOVELY!

SHHH SHHH

HEY, NOW! THERE'S SOME COMMOTION!

WHAT'S GOING ON, BARBER SHOP MASTER?

IT'S A HUGE UPROAR! THE FACTORY WORKERS WHO COULDN'T GET SEATS ON THE SAUCERS ARE RIOTING LIKE THEY'VE GONE CRAZY!

LAMP!! RAAA! RAAAA!!

LET US ON THE SAUCERS!!

DESTROY THE SAUCERS!!

WHERE IS LAMP, THAT SON OF A--?! LAMP!

FIND 'IM AND TEAR 'IM TO PIECES!!!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING ONLY LETTING RICH PEOPLE ON AND NOT US?!

LAMP!! LAMP!! YOU'RE DESPICABLE!! GRAAA!!

CRASH

RIOT

THOSE IDIOTS! I'VE GOT NO USE FOR THEM!

WH-WHAT ARE WE GONNA DO?

WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM?! IF YOU WANT IN, THEN BRING ME YOUR MONEY!

HEY!! THERE'S THAT LAMP GUY!! STONE HIM TO DEATH!

LET US ON THE SAUCERS!! GRAAA! RAAA!

HE'S LOADING NOTHING BUT LOTS OF MONEY AND FOOD INTO THE REMAINING SAUCERS!

KEEP THE SAUCERS FROM LEAVING!!

M-MASTER!! THE MOB IS GOING AFTER THE SAUCERS!

SMASH

THEY'RE SWARMING OVER IN THAT DIRECTION!

THAT CAN'T HAPPEN! I DON'T CARE WHAT HAPPENS TO THEM SO JUST DRIVE THEM BACK WITH THE *MACHINE GUNS!!*

CLANG

GRAA RAA

RAAA RAA

GRRAA

TAKE OUT EVERY-THING INSIDE!
I'M GETTING ON FIRST!
PUSH THE BUTTONS! ANY OF 'EM! JUST PUSH 'EM!
ONCE WE'RE ON, BLAST OFF!!
BOOM
BOOM

AAH! THEY'RE BLOWN TO SMITHEREENS!!

CURSES!! THOSE KNOW-NOTHINGS WENT AND RUINED EVERYTHING...

THE FINAL ONE IS STILL UNTOUCHED!

LAMP! WHY YOU--

THERE'S NO MORE THAN TEN MINUTES LEFT! WE'LL SIMPLY HAVE TO TAKE BACK THAT SAUCER FROM YOU!

WAIT!!
BUDDABUDDABUDDA
FOOLS! SEE YA!
THA THA THOOM
LAMP!!
LAMP!!
LAMP!!
LAMP!!

I GUESS THIS MAKES US THE EARTH'S LAST SURVIVORS!

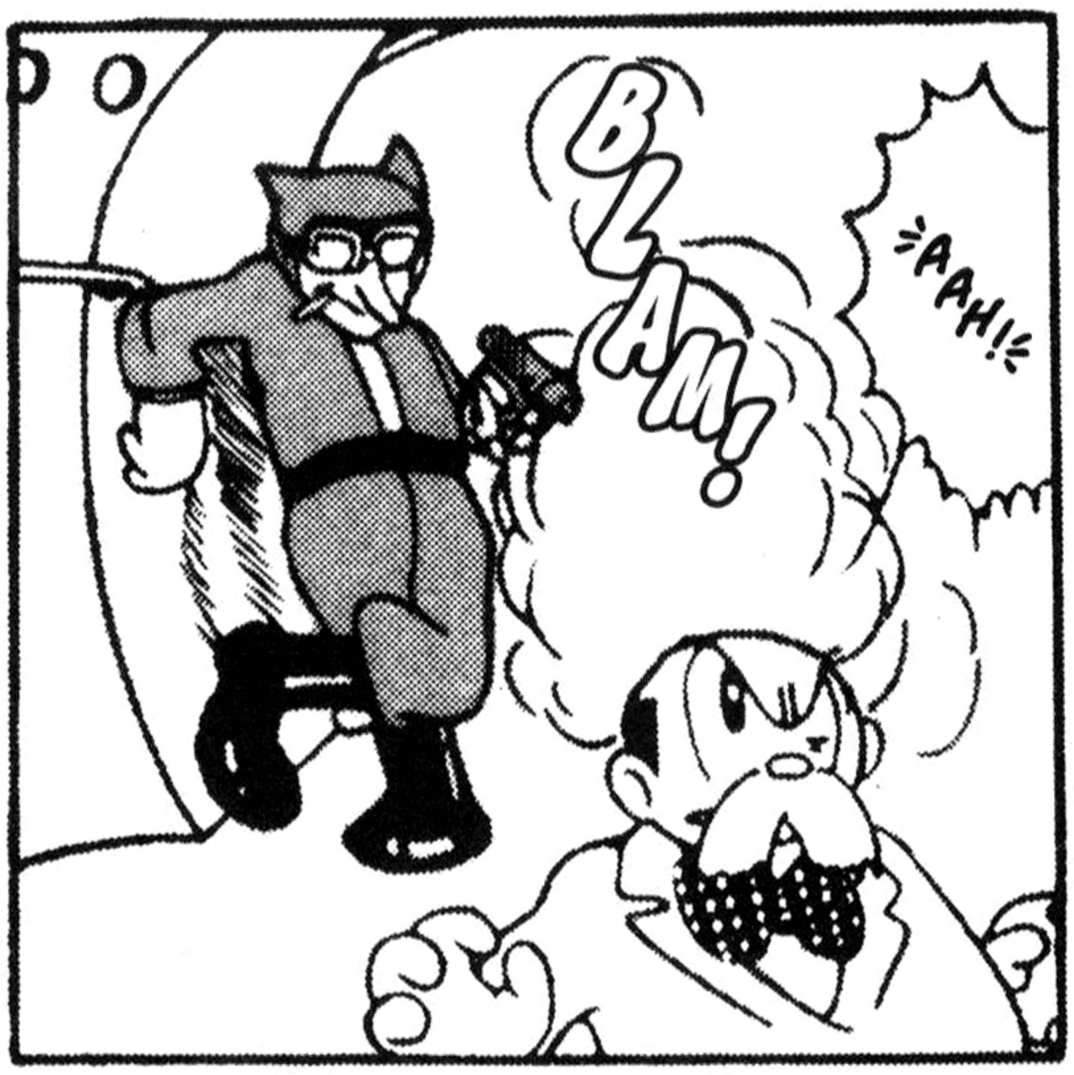
TOO BAD FOR THEM. *HEH HEH!*

HMPH! TOO BAD FOR *YOU*, LAMP!

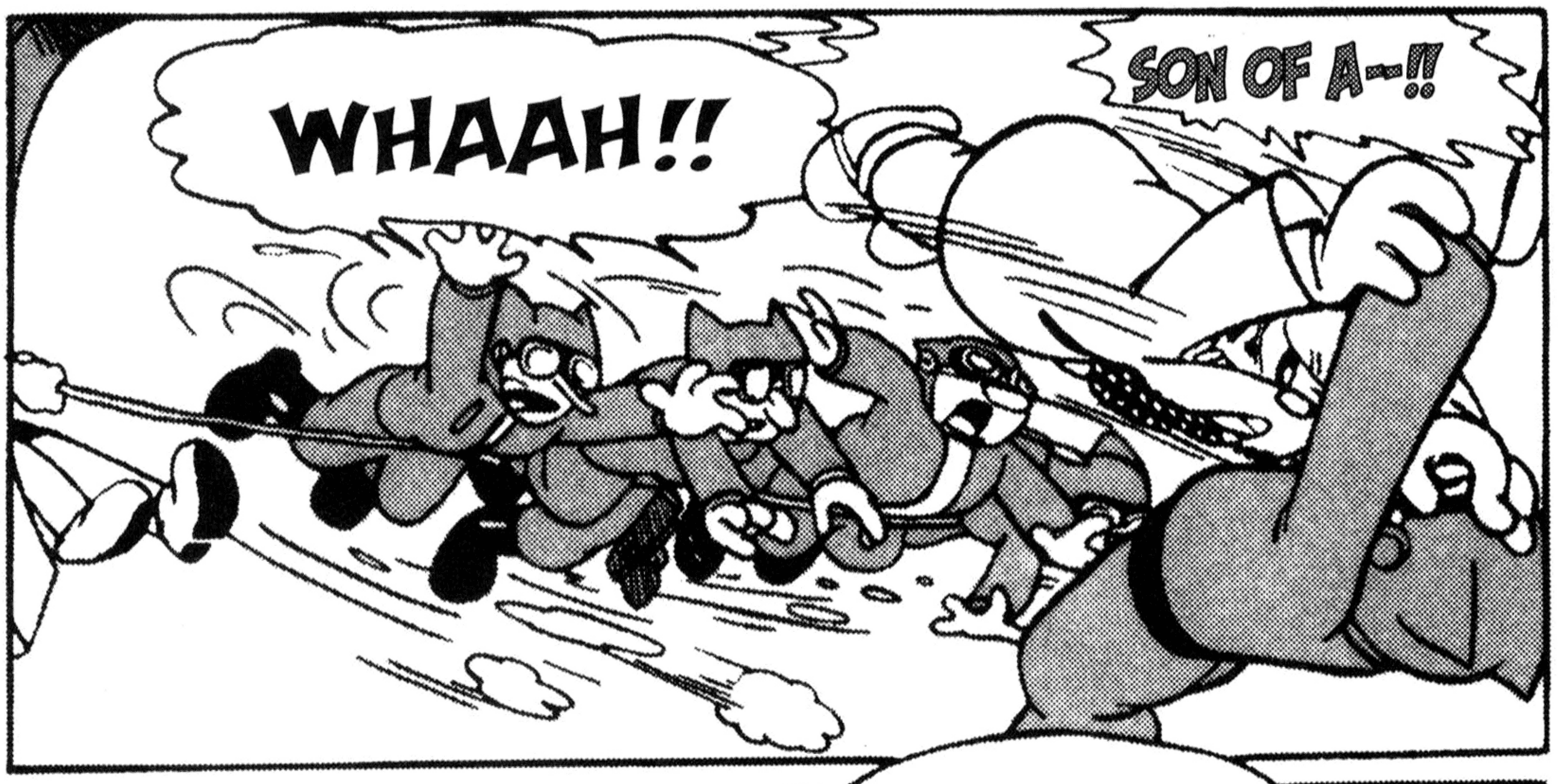
IT'S NO ONE BUT ME, MUSTACHIO!

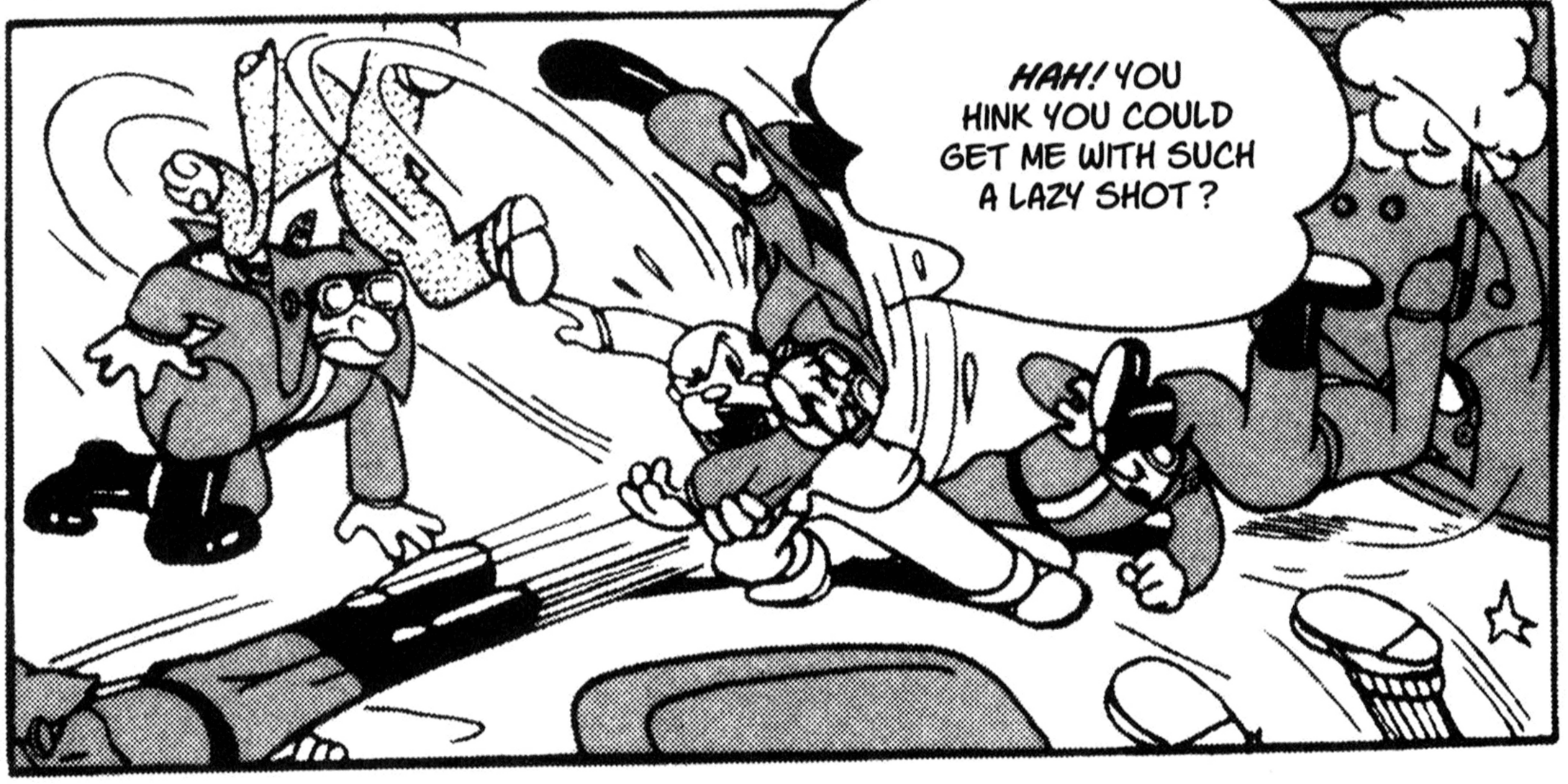
LAMP!! GUYS LIKE YOU MAKE ME SO SICK I'D FEED YOU TO A PIG IF I COULD...

MUSTACHIO, YOU...


BLAM!
AAH!

HRMPH! INSOLENT MAN!


WHAAH!!
SON OF A--!!


HAH! YOU HINK YOU COULD GET ME WITH SUCH A LAZY SHOT?

KENICHI! ROKOKO! PUSH THE CONTROL LEVER BACK TOWARDS THE GROUND!

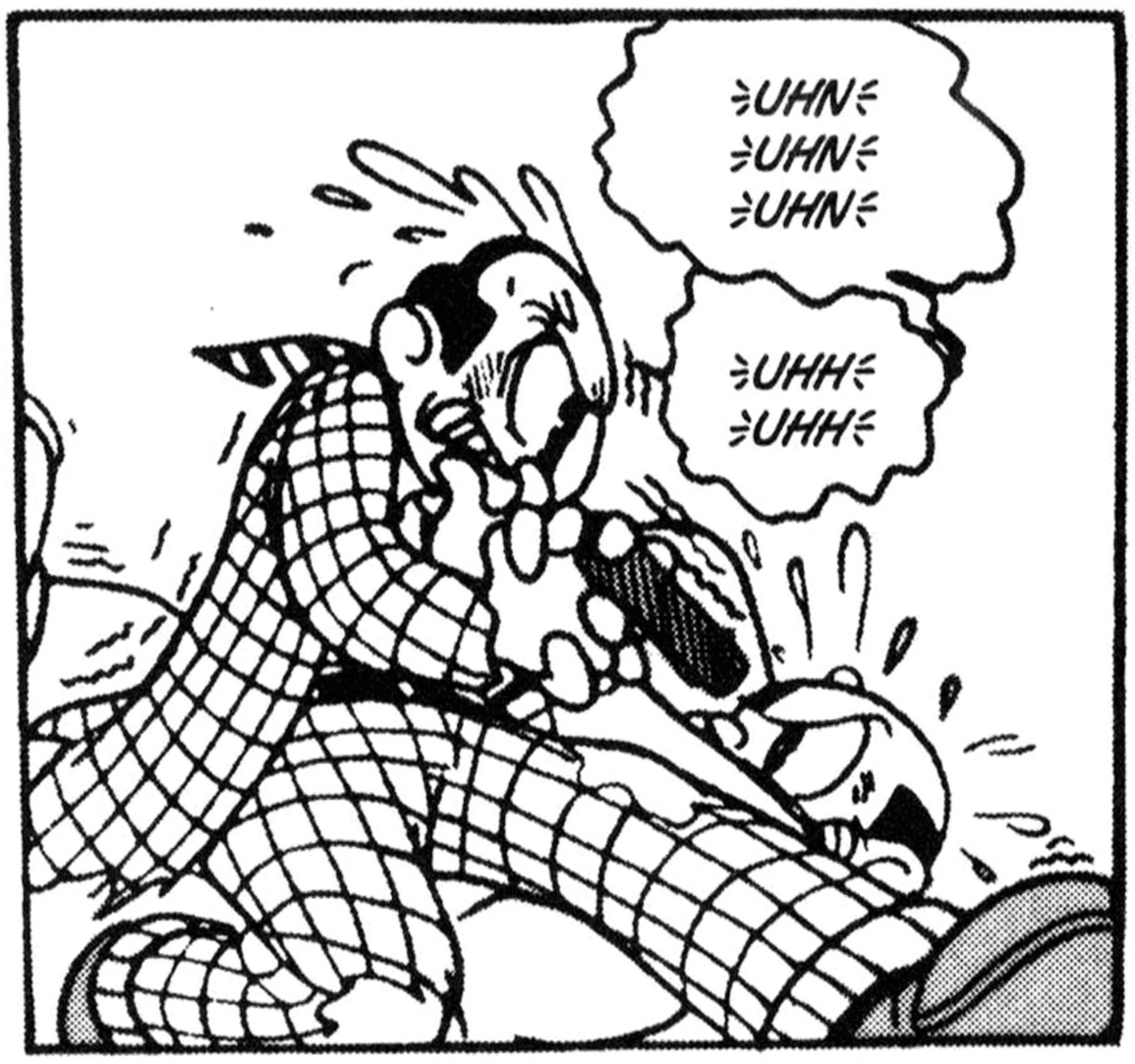
THANG

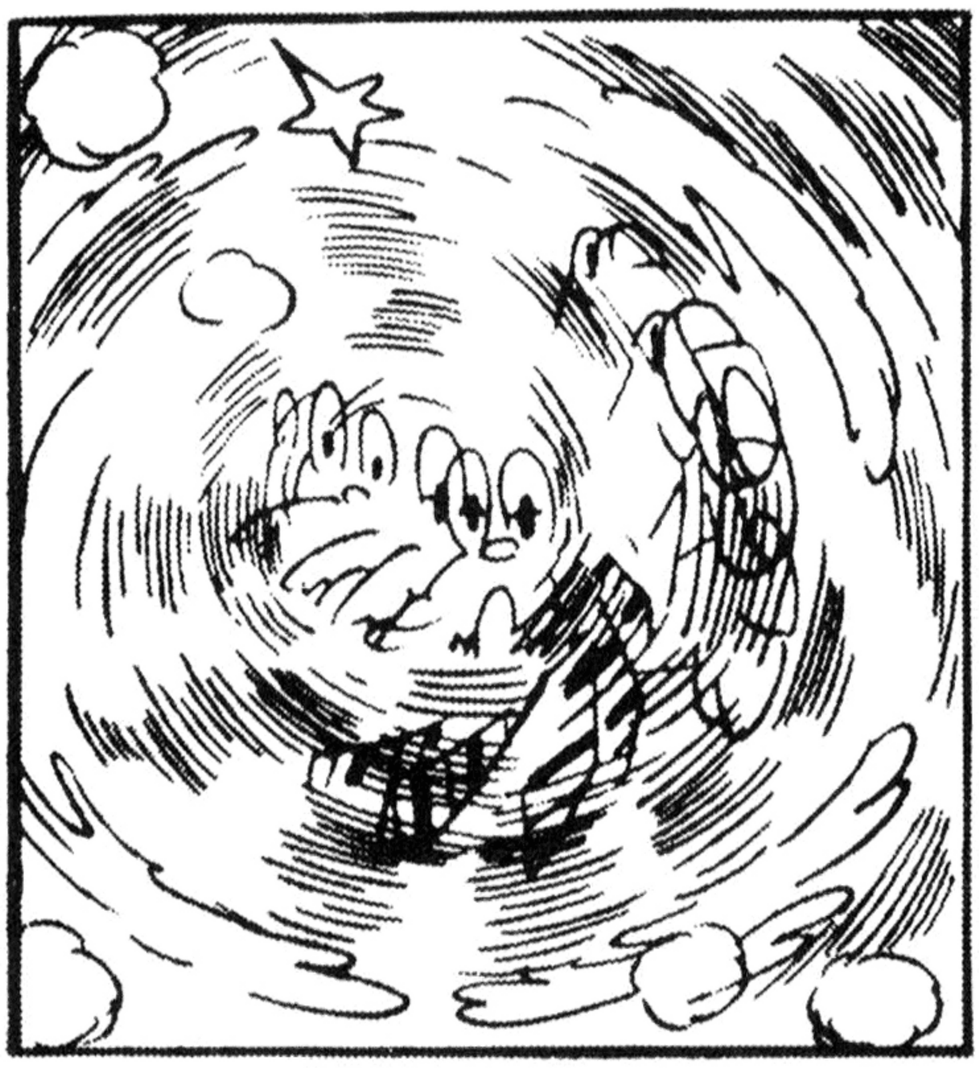
BLAM

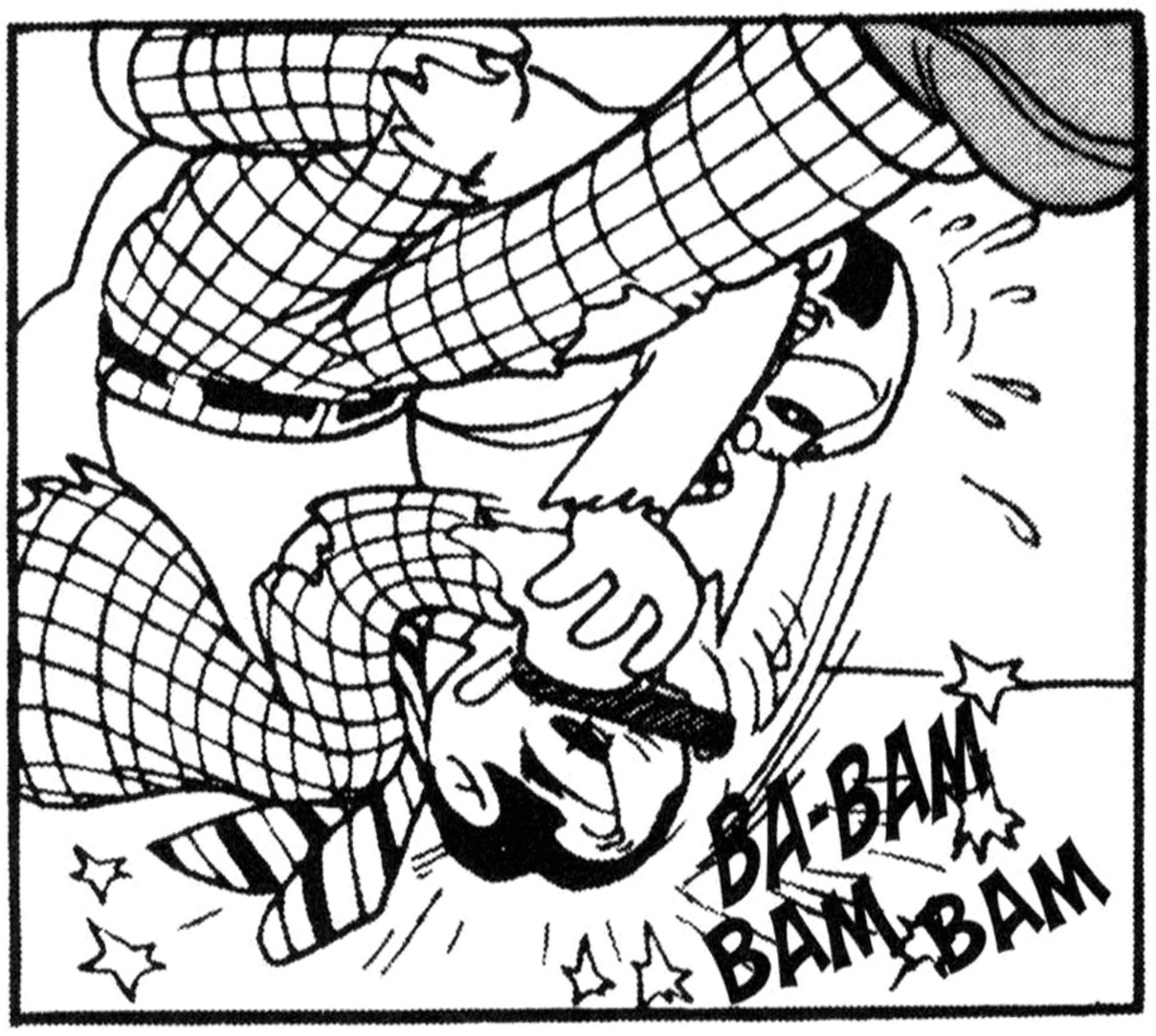
BAP!

BAPP

BAM
BAM


UHN
UHN
UHN
UHH
UHH




BA-BAM
BAM-BAM

AAAH!!

AIEE!!

TWEET

THROW OUT THE MONEY IN YOUR POCKETS! E-EVEN A LITTLE WILL LIGHTEN THE LOAD!

HE- HELP ME...

NEVER!!

FOOL! EVEN AT A TIME LIKE THIS, YOU STILL ONLY CARE ABOUT MONEY?!

WWAAAAA!!!

THE CONTROL LEVER IS BROKEN!

KENICHI!!

AAH!
UNCLE!! LOOK,
LOOK!!

OH! THAT MOMENT!
THOO
THOO
THOO
THOOM
SOOSH
SOOSH
ROAR
ROAR
ROAR

THOSE INNOCENT HUMORENSKIAN VILLAGERS ARE PROBABLY MERRILY RIDING ALONG INSIDE. AND POPONYA HAS PROBABLY BECOME A HARD-WORKING SLAVE AND IS IMMERSED IN HER "RESEARCH"...

THE FUMOON HAVE TAKEN OFF...

EEP EEP EEP!

GRAAR GRAAR

POPONYA!!

OH! I WONDER WHO THAT IS...

HE'S CRYING OUT POPONYA'S NAME!

HEY, THERE!

ROAR ROAR

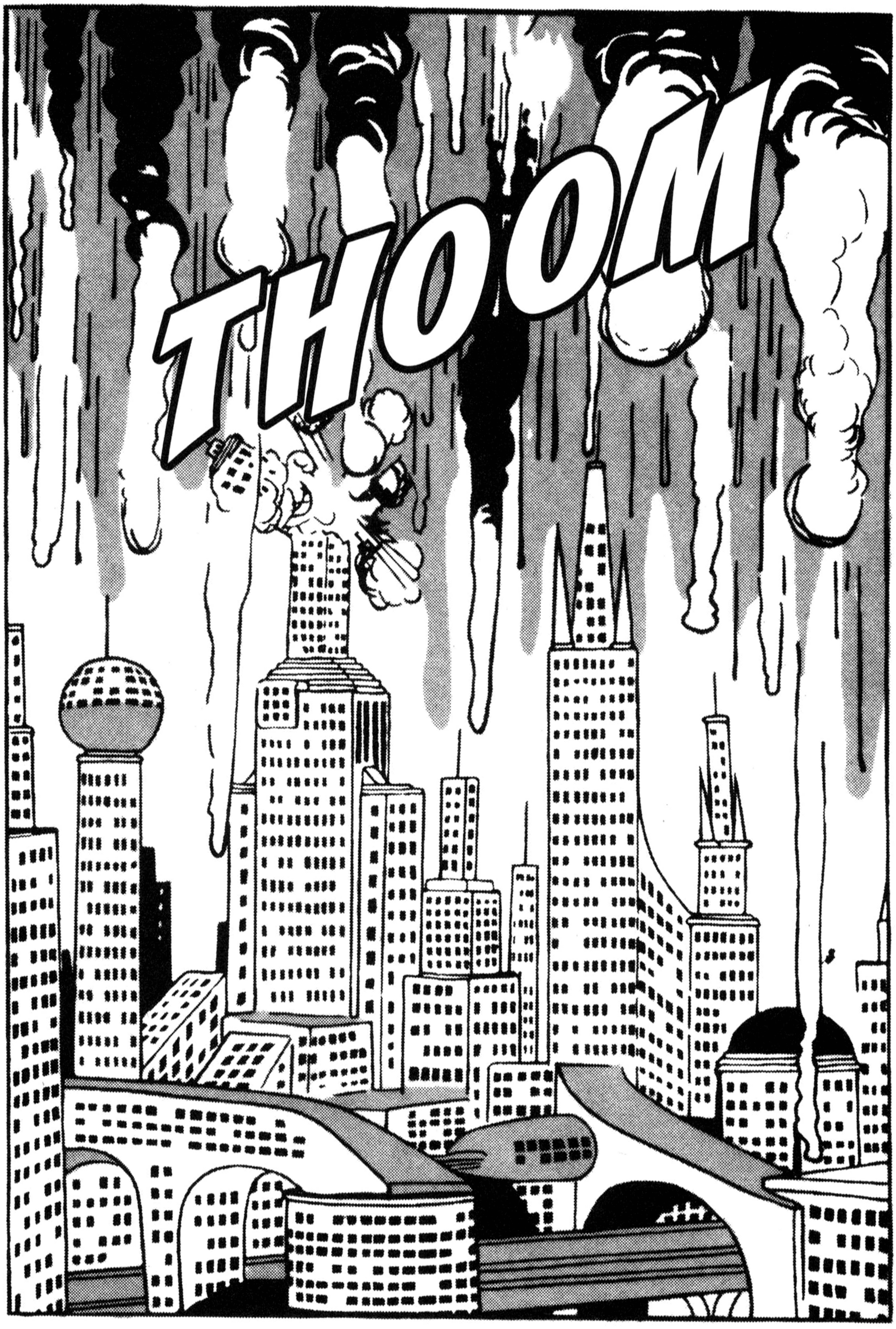
POPONYA!!

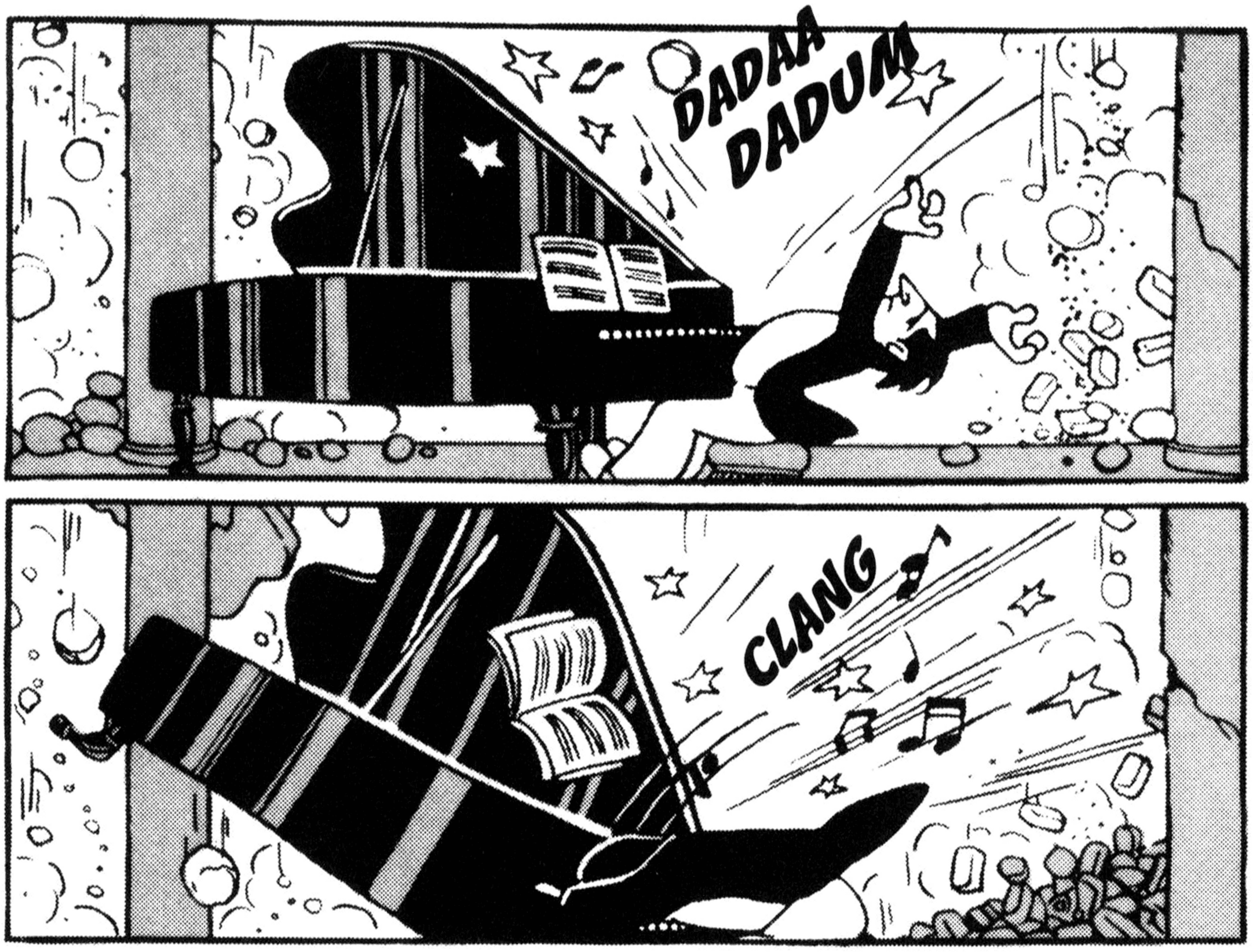
POPONYA!

POPONYA!

POPONYA! COME BACK! JUST ONE LOOK... I...

ROAR ROAR ROAR ROAR


THOOM


DADAA
DADUM
CLANG
AHHH... AND SO EVEN THE GRAND CULTURE ERECTED BY HUMANITY IS REDUCED TO SMOKE IN A MATTER OF ONLY A FEW MINUTES BY THE GREAT POWER OF NATURE!

THE GAS! AT LONG LAST THE END IS HERE, MR. REDONOV!

FAREWELL, MR. NOTARLIN.

FAREWELL!

MY COUNTRY AND YOUR COUNTRY WERE ALWAYS AT WAR, BUT...

WHEN I THINK ABOUT IT, IT WAS SO FOOLISH.

WHY WEREN'T WE ABLE TO GET ALONG BETTER, I WONDER?

THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE EVER SPOKEN TO YOU WITH THIS KIND OF FEELING.

OH! ME TOO!

THIS IS THE KIND OF FRIENDSHIP WE WERE ALWAYS HOPING FOR!

THAT'S RIGHT, MR. REDONOV! IT'S STILL NOT TOO LATE!

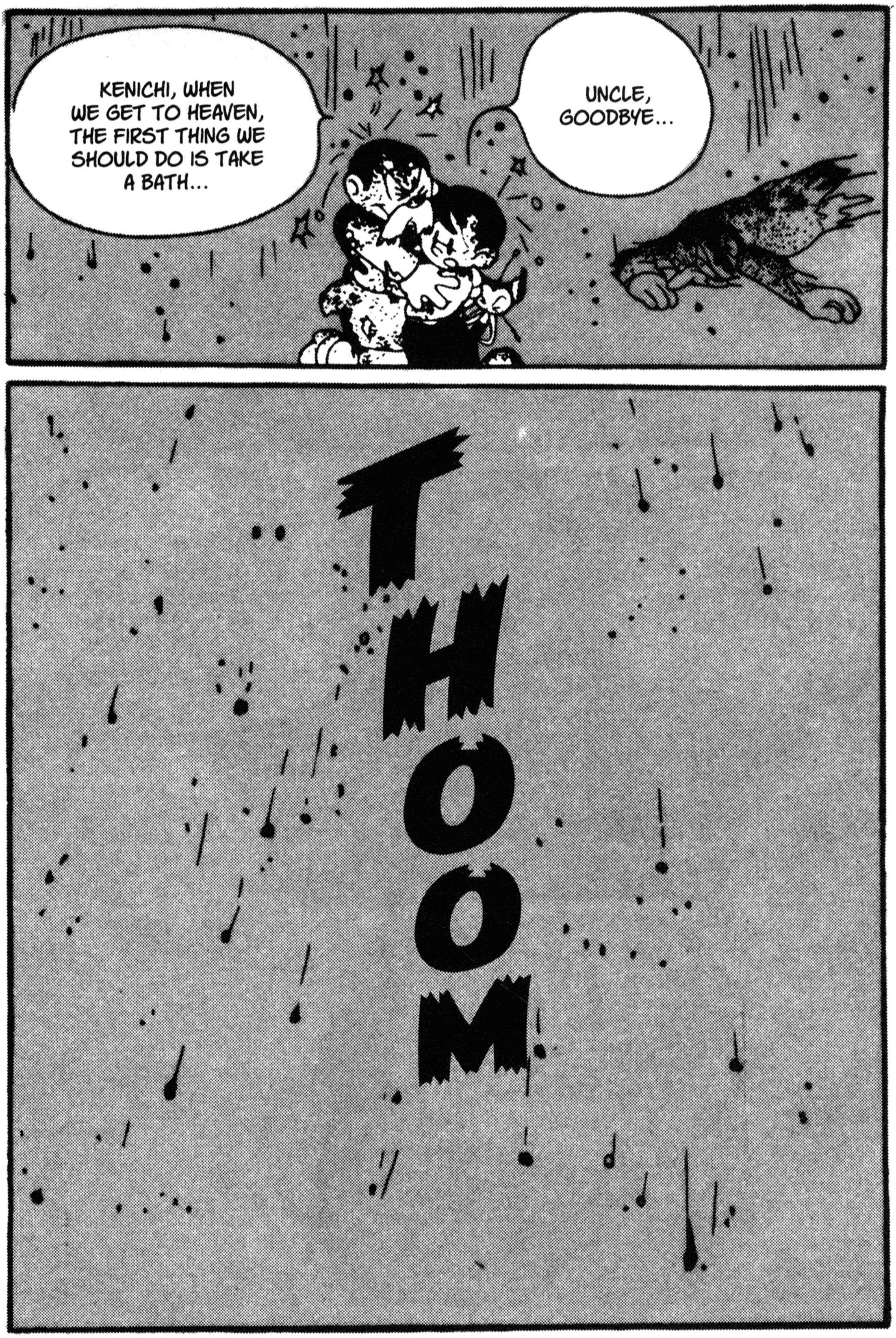
PEACE, PEACE!

THERE WILL BE NO MORE WAR ON EARTH!

HOORAY FOR HUMANITY! HOORAY FOR WORLD CULTURE!!

D
A
D
U
M

DA
DA
DA
DUM
M


KENICHI, WHEN WE GET TO HEAVEN, THE FIRST THING WE SHOULD DO IS TAKE A BATH...
UNCLE, GOODBYE...
THOOM!

WH - WHAT THE ?!

WE BREATHED IN THE GAS BUT WE'RE NOT DEAD!

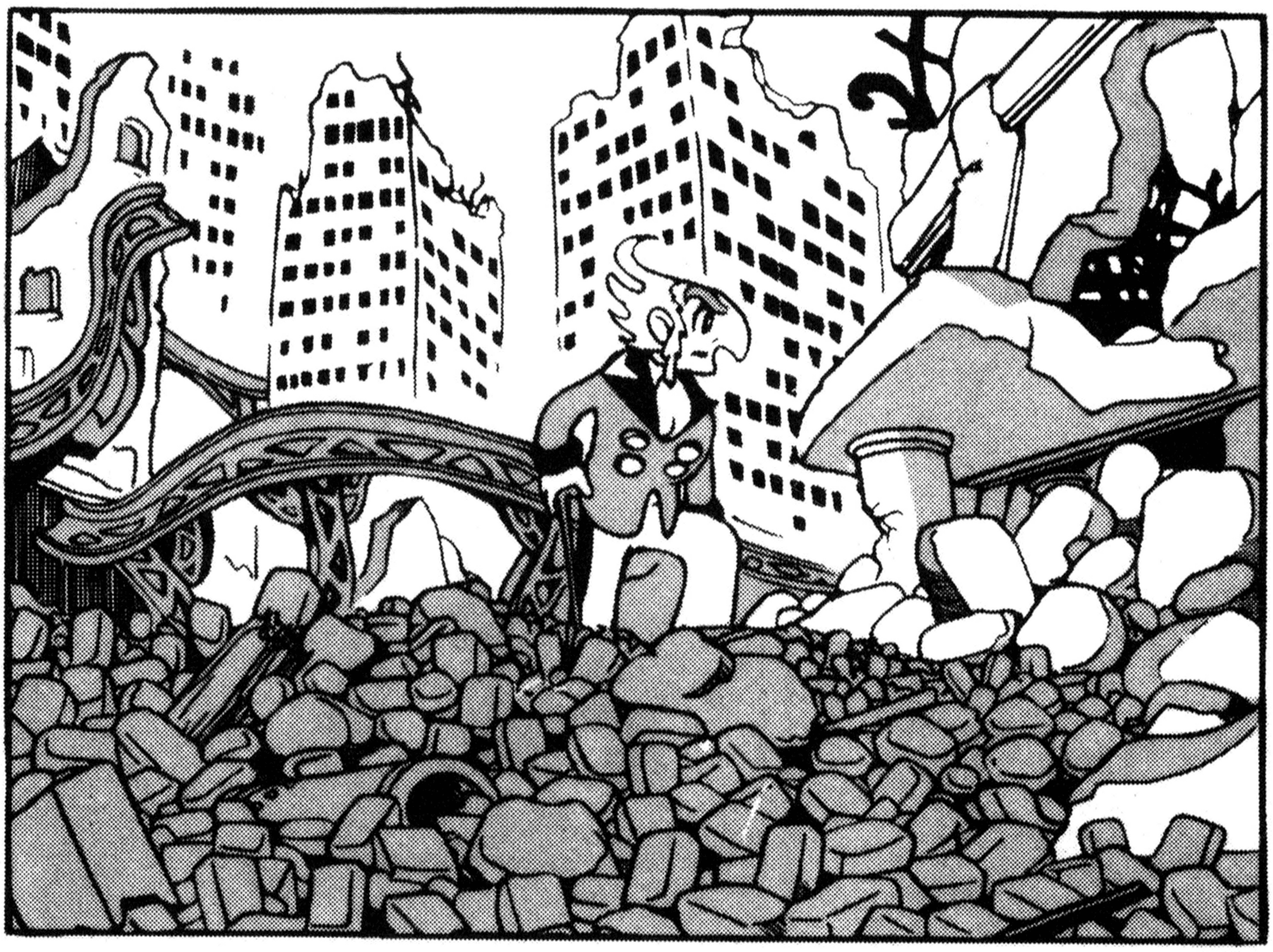
YOU'RE RIGHT! THIS IS *OXYGEN!*

IT REALLY IS JUST ORDINARY OXYGEN!! *WAH HAH HA! WAAAH HA HA HA HA HAH!*

HA HA HA! WAH HAW HAW HAW! WAH HA HA HA HA! HAH HA HA HA HA! WAH HA HA HA HA!

EPILOGUE - NEXT WORLD

DENOUEMENT



LOOK AT THAT. MR. REDONOV'S HAIR HAS GONE TOTALLY WHITE...

TO THINK THAT GAS WAS JUST ORDINARY OXYGEN... IT'S LIKE IT WAS A DREAM.

SURELY THIS IS THE KIND OF THING THEY CALL THE POWER OF GOD, ISN'T IT...

SO IT MUST BE! NO MATTER HOW YOU THINK ABOUT IT, NO HUMAN POWER COULD EVER ACCOMPLISH SUCH A MIRACLE.

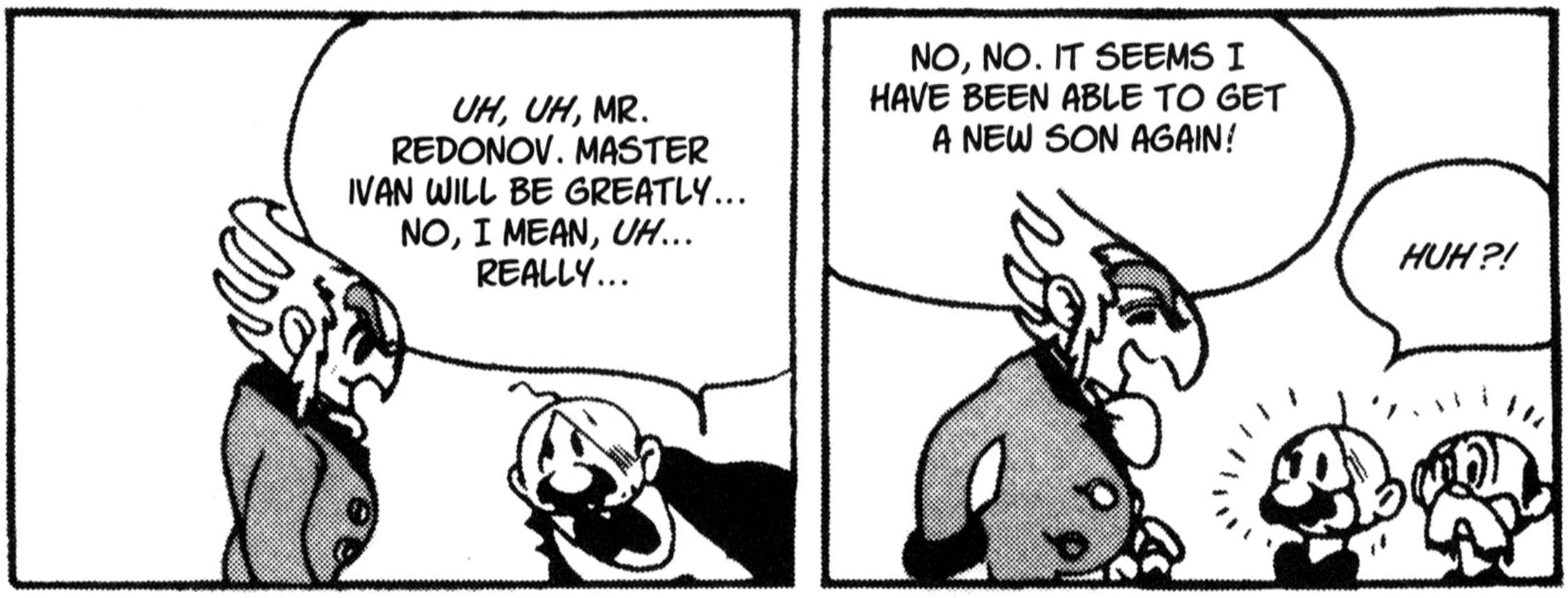
WHEN THAT GAS ENTERED THE SOLAR SYSTEM, THE SUN'S LIGHT PROBABLY ALTERED IT AND CHANGED IT INTO ORDINARY OXYGEN... THAT'S WHAT DR. YAMADANO SAID!

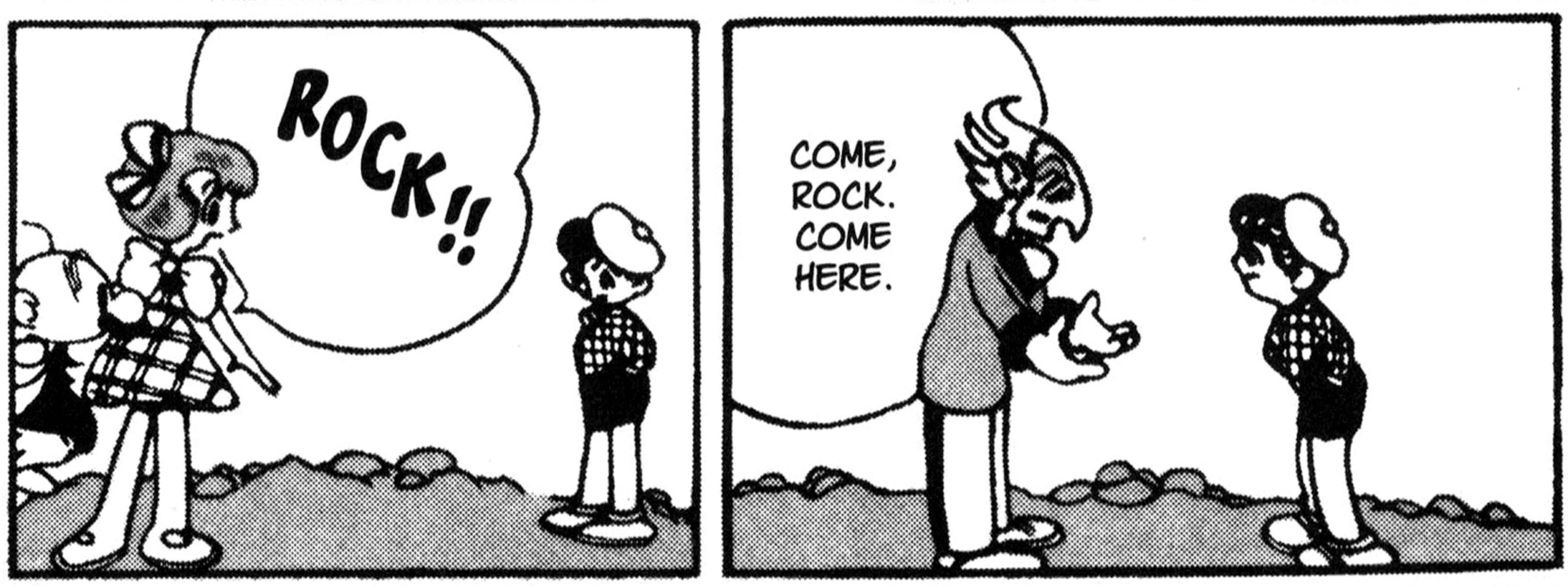
WHA--?! COCOA, YOU... YOU'RE SO DIFFERENT THAN BEFORE...

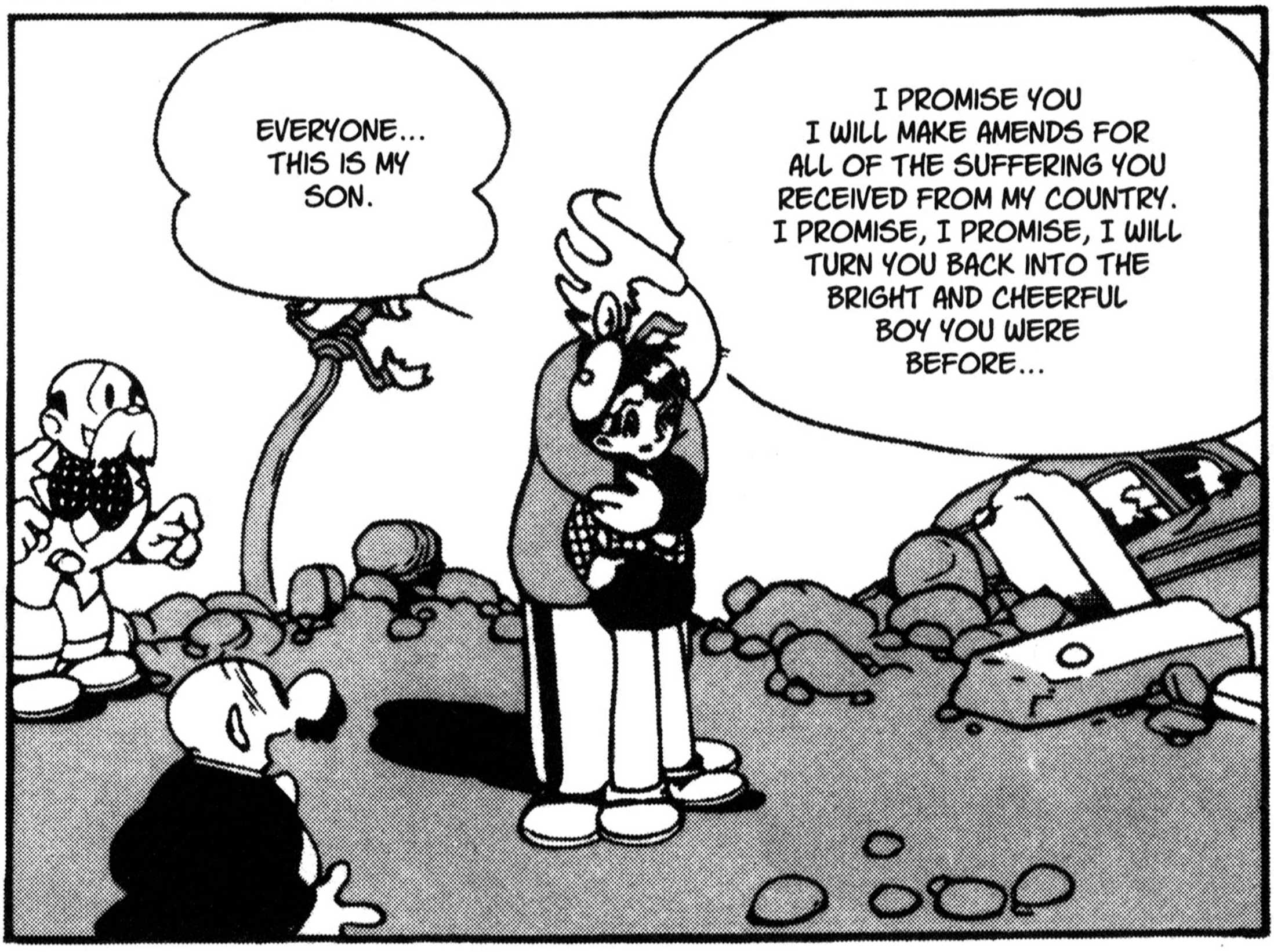
?

THAT'S FINE! THAT'S JUST FINE! EVERYTHING IS WONDERFUL!

I MEAN, UH...


UH, UH, MR. REDONOV. MASTER IVAN WILL BE GREATLY... NO, I MEAN, UH... REALLY...
NO, NO. IT SEEMS I HAVE BEEN ABLE TO GET A NEW SON AGAIN!
HUH?!


ROCK!!
COME, ROCK. COME HERE.


EVERYONE... THIS IS MY SON.
I PROMISE YOU I WILL MAKE AMENDS FOR ALL OF THE SUFFERING YOU RECEIVED FROM MY COUNTRY. I PROMISE, I PROMISE, I WILL TURN YOU BACK INTO THE BRIGHT AND CHEERFUL BOY YOU WERE BEFORE...

AND HERE, IN ORDER TO ENSURE PEACE FOR HUMANITY, WE WILL EXILE THE LAST FUMOON, ROKOKO, FROM THE EARTH.

MR. MUSTACHIO, I NEED YOUR HELP...

KENICHI SAID HE WAS HANGING IN THERE, BUT... THERE, THERE, I'LL GO HELP.

STUPID UNCLE! STUPID UNCLE! WHY?! FORCING ROKOKO TO LEAVE THE EARTH?! HOW HORRIBLE!!

ROKOKO EVEN GAVE US A ROCKET TO SAVE *US!* BUT EVEN AFTER GIVING US SO MUCH, NOW HOW CAN YOU DO SUCH A THING?!!

THAT WAS A SURPRISE! THIS IS THE FIRST TIME KENICHI'S EVER DEFIED *ME* LIKE THAT!

BUT, MASTER KENICHI, IF EVEN A SINGLE FUMOON IS LEFT BEHIND ON EARTH, WE'LL BE IN DANGER.

NO!!

IT'S AWFULLY WEIRD THAT KENICHI IS PLEADING SO HARD TO PROTECT ROKOKO!

YOU'RE TOO CRUEL.

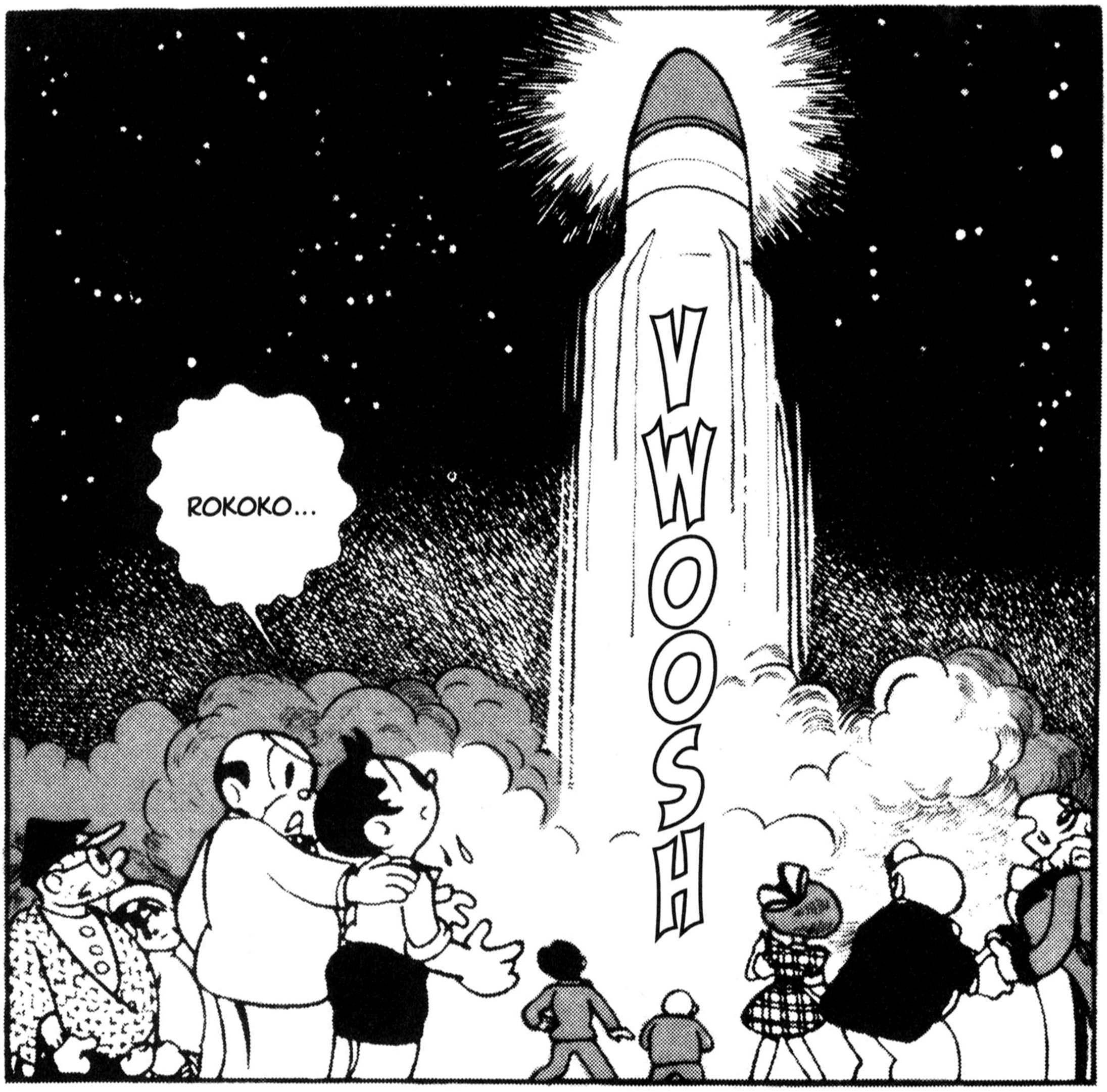
...BUT WE'VE GOT NO OTHER CHOICE. AND SHE'S *ALREADY* BEEN PUT TO SLEEP!

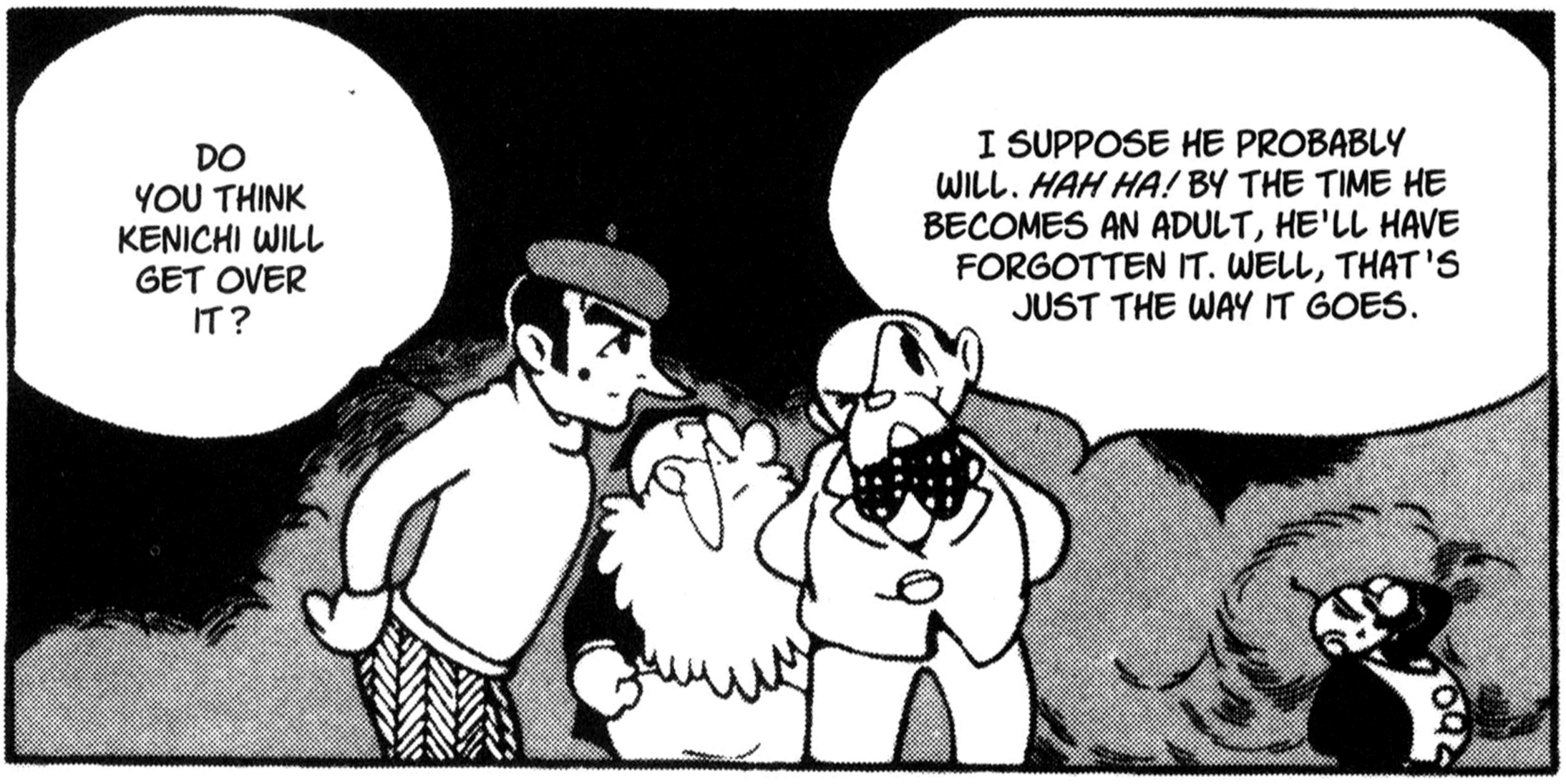
AM I ALREADY TOO LATE, THEN...?

ROKOKO!! IT'S ME!

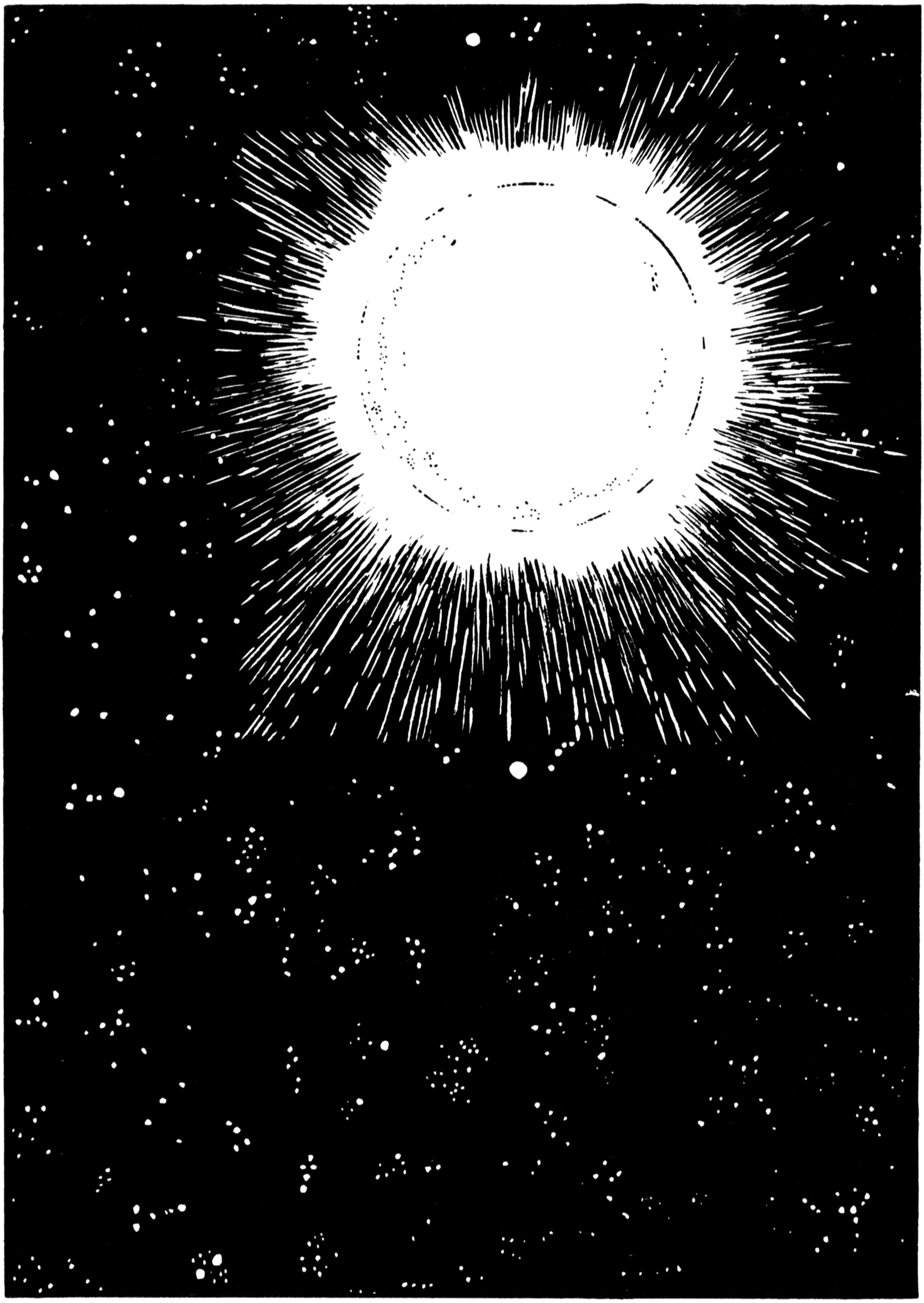
I'M SORRY, SO SORRY! HUMANS HAVE NO GRATITUDE.

COME, COME! THEY'RE CLOSING IT UP NOW!


ROKOKO...
WWOOSH


DO YOU THINK KENICHI WILL GET OVER IT?
I SUPPOSE HE PROBABLY WILL. *HAH HA!* BY THE TIME HE BECOMES AN ADULT, HE'LL HAVE FORGOTTEN IT. WELL, THAT'S JUST THE WAY IT GOES.

THIS MEANS OUR WORRIES ABOUT HUMANITY BEING CONQUERED ARE OVER.
NO, NO! YOU MUSTN'T SAY THEY'RE OVER.
HUH?
JUST AS HUMANS CONQUERED THE APES, SOMEDAY CREATURES GREATER THAN HUMANS WILL CONQUER HUMANS... SUCH IS THE LAW OF NATURE.
IN ORDER FOR HUMANITY TO COEXIST WITH SUCH CREATURES, HUMANS MUST FIRST STOP WARRING WITH THEIR FELLOW MAN.



THE NOAH'S ARKS WHICH FLEW OFF INTO SPACE WILL RETURN TO THE EARTH IN THE NEAR FUTURE...

AFTERWORD

by **Osamu Tezuka**

footnotes by **Kumar Sivasubramanian**

The H.G. Wells film *Things to Come*,[1] released before the war, was a large-scale SF movie.

However, the contents of said movie – which I saw after the war in a small, classic cinema house in Shinjuku – were not very interesting. The first half was especially boring, and I remember yawning four or five times.

This story took place well after I wrote this comic.

In other words, I'm writing this because I want to state for the record that this comic was not an imitation or rip-off of the Wells movie.

Lost World.[2]

Metropolis.[3]

These two comics also have movies with the same titles, but in no way did I plagiarize them!

I knew that *Lost World* was a Conan Doyle book, but I hadn't read it (I only knew that dinosaurs appeared in it).

With *Metropolis* too, I knew the title of the movie and that the main character was a female robot from reading some pre-war book about movies or something. I only used an image from that to write something completely different – that's what that was.

Similarly, with *Nextworld* too, I didn't particularly mean to write about the future of humanity (once, when it was reprinted as a supplement in some magazine or something, I even thought about changing the title to *New Species Fumoon*[4]), so the image you get from the title and the actual contents are completely different. (Boy, I just can't stop making excuses.)

Anyway, this comic is the final book-length work I produced during my Kansai period, and, in its own way, it took plenty of time and was a work that I fully devoted my attention to writing.

The conception of it seems to have already been in place when I wrote *Metropolis* around 1949, and I found my notes for these ideas recently.

The first and second volumes put together made it a work of about 300 pages, but in actual fact the original manuscript I had written was about 1000 pages.

As for why I didn't use the whole 1000 pages: at the time, it was rejected because they said a story of such length could not be put into collected editions...

So weeping and wailing, and ripping out this page and that, I

abridged the story so that, in such a way (the first volume was especially awful!), the story became digest-like and difficult to understand.

For example, in the scenes with Kenichi's group in the row houses – there was four times as much. Further, I had enjoyed kind of distinguishing each individual's personality almost as if they were like Disney's seven dwarves.

Those unused portions of the manuscript, frivolous though it may be, I gave away to fans who came over for fun, or burned up, so now there are probably no more than a mere three or four copies left.

The first volume came in two versions: the first edition began with Dr. Yamadano's mansion in the pouring rain, but in the later printings (revised editions) the scene of Horseshoe Island in the South Seas was added before that.

The reason for this is that after the first edition came out, I saw it and read it, and finding the plot very difficult to understand, I myself became thoroughly disgusted with it (this was also thanks to all the cutting), and circumstances were such that I hurriedly tried to fix the scene.

The scenes of Rock's first meeting with Lamp, Notarlin's invitation to him, and his being trained to become a spy for the Nation of Star were also much longer. They showed the stages by which an individual civilian could be turned into a tool for military purposes, but...these also had to be abridged... (I never stop complaining, do I? I mean, really.)

Just recently, Mr. Sakyo Komatsu[5] pointed out and again reminded me about the swarm of saucers built by the Fumoon... They are slightly different in construction from actual UFOs, but couldn't they be a forerunner of flying saucers as drawn in other comics? Further, the point of selected humans being allowed on board and then taking off somehow seems to me like *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*... And now that I mention it, those little aliens kind of make me think of the Fumoon too.

I have numerous recollections about this work, but the thing that burned me up the most was that this work was sold without authorization by remaindered book shops that went and put it out after changing the title as they pleased. Also *Nextworld* was done in one-color printing, but some person went and added a second color to this remaindered version making it awful to even lay eyes on.

Those of you who should find such a two-color copy of *Nextworld*, please throw it away if possible. It's a counterfeit remaindered book at any rate, so...

In my collected editions at the time, the *mushi*[6] mark was always printed on the spine. Ones without the mark – for example, even if the name Osamu Tezuka appears on it – are fakes. (Quit talking about stuff that's got nothing to do with the afterword already!)

Moving on, it shames me to mention it, but I have to talk about the tale of Noah's Ark which appears at the end of the first volume.

In that scene, the word *NOA* that's written in a book was a mistake, and *NOAH* is correct.[7] The English that is written there is also ridiculous and incoherent. At the time, I figured that even if I wrote such nonsense, it's not like anyone would ever read it anyway, so when I relaxed and decided I could fool everyone, that's when my luck ran out.[8]

One more thing. The sun on the final two-page spread looks kind of like I tried to correct it by pasting over it with paper, thus making it unsightly (my readers have been kind enough to point this out to me many times ever since).

Indeed, this is exactly what happened. When I first spread out the pages on the veranda to dry out, our house cat, named Mook, went barefoot (naturally, of course) and trampled and stamped all over them. The half-dried white paints got sticky and smudged... so I repainted the thing while throwing a temper tantrum.

Near the beginning of the first volume, the word *verderungen* appears. This is German for "mutation." In other words, what we would now call a mutant. My work used such SF terminology etc., which was not in general public use at the time, but since I had learned German during my medical studies, I felt like showing off and trying to use it... Now that I mention it, with the word *cyborg* too – when this term first came into use, I used the German pronunciation instead. This wasn't in *Nextworld*, but the word appeared in some work or other.

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[1] 1936, London Film Productions. The movie was written by Wells, based on his own 1933 novel *The Shape of Things to Come*. The movie title was translated into Japanese as "The World to Come," which became the title of Tezuka's comic. This, presumably, was mistranslated back into English as "Nextworld" to give the comic its English title in Japan. To further complicate matters, at various times the comic has also been known in English as *The World of the Future* and *Future World*.

[2] 1948

[3] 1949

[4] In fact, when the animated version of *Nextworld* was released in 1980, it was simply titled *Fumoon*.

[5] Japanese novelist, essayist, and one of the most famous science-fiction writers in Japan. He is perhaps best known in the U.S. for his 1973 novel, *Japan Sinks*.

[6] Tezuka's "symbol," which later went on to become the name of his animation production company. It is a play on the Chinese characters that make up his name and means "insect."

[7] This was corrected in the Dark Horse edition.

[8] Tezuka's use of the word *rubashka* to describe the robes worn by the Uran factory managers is also in error, since *rubashka* actually refers to a kind of Russian peasant blouse.

NEXTWORLD

来るべき世界

From the creator of *Astro Boy* and *Metropolis*, comes the conclusion of *Nextworld*, part of Osamu Tezuka's cycle of original science-fiction graphic novels – including *Lost World* and *Metropolis* – published in the late 1940s and early 1950s. The Fumoon, creatures with supernatural powers, discover a colossal gas cloud approaching Earth that will completely disintegrate the planet! In preparation for our world's demise, the Fumoon plan to rescue all of Earth's living creatures and transport them via flying saucer to a new home on another planet!